Vol 36 Jan and Dec

THE CRISIS

JANUARY

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THE CRISIS

A Record of the Darker Races

W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS, *Editor* PIERCE MCN. THOMPSON, *Business Manager*

Volume 36, No. 1 Contents for January, 1929 *Whole No. 219*

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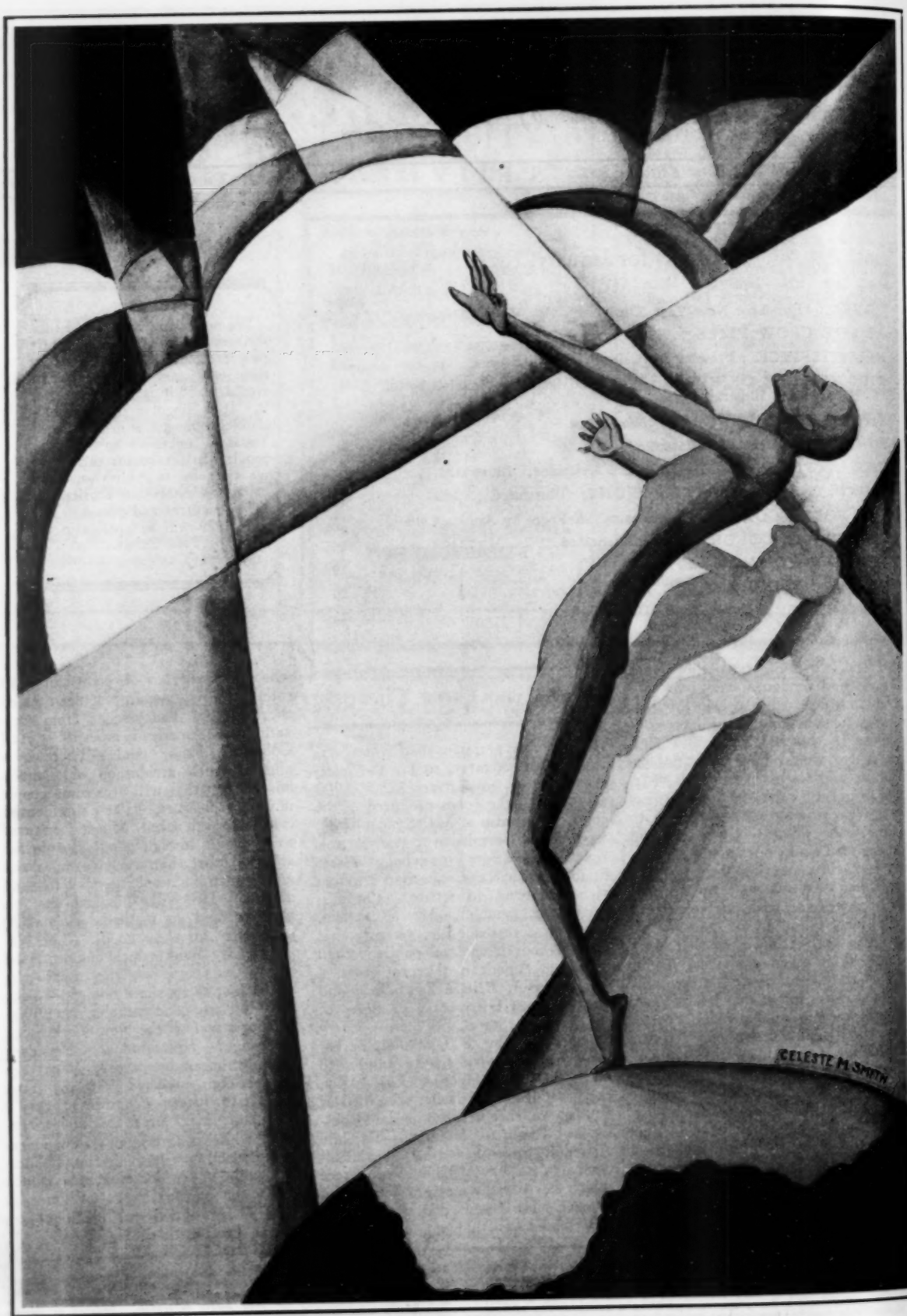
We are asking friends and subscribers to make unusual effort to get copies of THE CRISIS to those who want the magazine, or would want it if they could get it. It is singular that the oldest Negro magazine in the United States is unknown to so many people. In return for this effort we are going to publish some unusual and interesting stories, articles, pictures and poems. The year 1929 will be notable in the pages of THE CRISIS.

As the Crow Flies

INTELLIGENCE tests show that the white voodoo doctors of Pennsylvania are markedly superior in their methods to their colored prototypes.—Without the black folk on the "Vestris", there would have been no one to praise and no one to blame.—Mr. Hoover and the rulers of South America are exchanging amenities. With Haiti, Cuba, Santo Domingo and Nicaragua sticking out of his pockets, Mr. Hoover is assuring them all that the United States loves them terribly. They are replying with one voice, lead by President Gil: "Then let us alone."—No one has yet suggested that King George V, if given a chance, would have set the world afire. Neither will his son.—Don't forget that it was Governor Roosevelt of New York who wrote the illegal constitution of Haiti, thrust it down their black throats, then laughed about it.—Nine hundred thousand miners are starving in Great Britain, but they are doing something about it. Already they have settled two thousand of them in Canada.—It is Mr. Garner of Texas who calls the Democratic Party "naturally and logically the Liberal Party of the country". God save the Liberals!—We not only permit a man whose services to the country, to say the least, are not clear, to abstract $25,000,000 a year from the goods produced in the country, but also at Mr. Ryan's death, we give him permission to transfer this right in perpetuity to anybody he sees fit to name without expecting any services whatever in return.—The distinguished gambler, Mr. Rothstein, who ran across a bullet recently, has received more respectful publicity than any great American of recent years.—Mr. Fred A. Britten has named and elected himself Secretary of State of the United States pro tem.—Every member of the 800,000,000 darker peoples of the world should stand with bowed heads in memory of Lajpat Rai, the great leader of India, who died of English violence because he dared persist in his fight for freedom.—The late Alfred E. Smith has already begun his campaign to buy up the Negro race which he so sadly neglected last November. His friend, Mr. Raskob, has contributed something to a little Negro school in Georgia.—A poor European ruling family to whom Napoleon tossed a crown, has been rescued from starvation by American asbestos. Hail Columbia, happy land!—There is a ninety-seventh archbishop of Canterbury, a fact that will give some people unusual pleasure.—The presidential candidate who asked for a higher tariff to keep out foreign goods says in his annual report that we have more and more manufactured goods to sell abroad. He will now address his mighty mind to methods of making people pay for these goods.—The National City Bank which bought Haiti a few years ago, is giving away part of the loot to its share holders.—Why shouldn't any good gambler pay $600,000 for a seat on the New York Stock Exchange?—Just what does President Coolidge mean by peace? What are cruisers for anyway? At any rate, let's have fifteen or twenty; they'll only cost thirty or forty universities.—A white congressman from Texas and a black congressman from Illinois are both under indictment. Watch the action of the House.—Where did we read before that stuff on the Negro in the President's message?

The CRISIS is published monthly and copyrighted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 15 cents a copy, $1.50 a year. Foreign subscriptions $1.75. The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage and while THE CRISIS uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.



Excelsior

The Miracle of the Kings

Translated from the Spanish of R. Cansinos-Assens

By M. J. BENARDETE

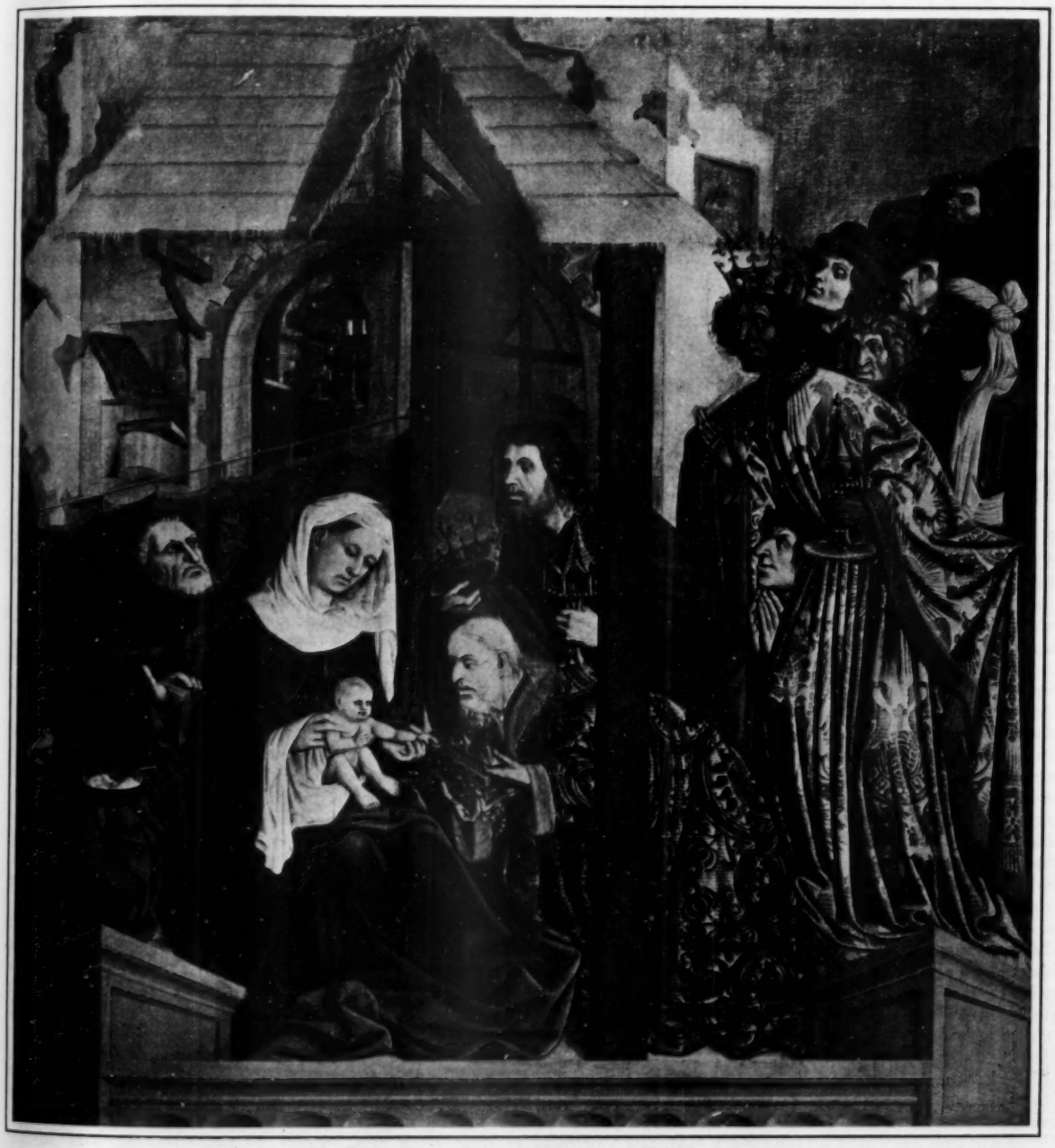
THE night was very cold and very blue. The snow had covered all the country-side with whiteness, and the far-away stars shining yonder in the last frontier of the sky seemed also to be of silvery snow, very cold and very white.

All the windows of the house were shut, and, next to the fire of the big hearth, the little girl, a poor little country girl, was watching the hemlock logs burn, enthralled, with her hands over the fire and her heart filled with legends, because it was the night of the Epiphany.

Soon, a sour and unfriendly voice, the voice of a cruel step-mother, resounded through the room:

"Mary, didn't I tell you to go to the fountain and fetch water? How is it you forgot?"

The little heart of the girl trembled with fear every time she heard that voice.



The Three Kings, Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior
From Multscher's "Adoration of Kings". Photographische Gesellschaft, Berlin

"I had to go for wood this evening, Mother, and I forgot."

"Then go for the water right now."

RIGHT now it was very late: little brother was sleeping in his pine cradle under the white hangings; father was smoking, with his hands resting on the table and his eyes blinking with dreams in the midst of the smoke of the black tobacco.

"Right now for water?" the little girl dared to say.

"Right now, lazy one. You ought to have brought it this evening."

Standing in the middle of the room, the little girl was thinking of the elves and the hobgoblins in the woods, of the wolves in the snow, and of the enchantments of the bewitching night outside the houses. Her moist and beseeching little eyes looked for pity, first in the eyes of her stepmother, and then in those of her father, who was smoking happily in the comfort of the warm house.

But the father, who loved only his second wife, shouted too, "Go out, lazy one, go for water."

RESIGNED and silent, the little girl went to the kitchen to get the heavy pitcher from the pine board. Girdling it with her arms with a tender gesture as if it were a load of roses, she placed it on her hip; and before going, she said pleadingly to her step-mother, "Will you place my little shoes on the window for the time the Magi pass?"

"Oh, yes, I will beat you with them if you come late. Go away, lazy one."

Her eyes brimming with tears, the little girl had to lift, unaided, the heavy bolt which crossed the two panels of the old and heavy oak door against wolves and thieves. Her father continued to smoke impassively, near the warmth of the fire, next to the beautiful step-mother, who was fascinating him with her eyes.

The breast of the little girl leaving the house was filled with sighs and with bitterness. Her eyes filled with tears, she sought consolation in the high stars that were looking down at her maternally and serenely. The whole country-side was covered with snow; the roofs of the rustic houses seemed crowned with big, white tiaras. Little lights, silked with tenderness, were shining through the misty, whitish window-panes. The earth, put to sleep by the snow, was as if enchanted under a pure dream of love. It was the night of the Magi, and the little children went to sleep very early in order to let the holy Magi pass in silence under their windows, and the little girl felt envy and sorrow and a great wish to have a good mother like the other children. With the jug on her side and her little hands purple with cold, she took the road toward the fountain.

THE fountain was in the very heart of the woods, beneath the branches of a walnut-tree a hundred years old. Up to the silent fountain the little girl went, her soul filled with dread. The water had frozen. On the spout was nothing more than a hard and white icicle. A great skein of snow hung on the metal frame.

The little girl began to cry. If she went home now, her step-mother would beat her and call her lazy.

Shivering with cold, she leaned against the trunk of the tree. "Oh, holy Virgin, where can I go for water?" Through the enchanted crystals of her tears, she saw the white woods filled with colors, mute and mystical, in the silence of the snow.

The trees appeared to be static saints wrapped in the dawn whiteness of their robes. A candid promise reigned in the woods; it was the enchanted hour when, down to earth, over the snow-covered homes, come the angels of the Nativity.

Soon her tears remained suspended in the eyes of the little girl, and her hands were raised to her little breast in a prayer.

Silently, under the trees of the wood advanced a brilliant cortege.

The little girl saw tunics, shining and golden, and regal silks filled with pomp and majesty. There were three venerable and beautiful figures, with long white beards, just like the saints in the stone cathedral and like the Magi in the pictures of her story-book.

THROUGH the very road where the fountain was situated they were coming, mounted on strange, humpy horses. She had never seen their like before. Filled with fear and respect, she hid herself behind a tree to watch them pass. The footsteps of the strange mounts made no noise in the snow.

The royal riders spoke not a word. She could see them better as they came nearer. They looked like three wonderful kings come from distant realms. They wore on their heads rich, crimson cloths, and on the cloths golden crowns, big and shining. Their tunics seemed long, pontifical brocades in a big festivity at the cathedral.

One could readily see in their faces that they were not from the lands of the North.

Their noses were aquiline, and their cheek-bones stuck out. But there was infinite sweetness in their black eyes. One of the three kings was a Negro.

THE little girl had never seen a Negro. And she noticed in all surprise that his eyes were even richer in tenderness than those of the other kings. On the backs of the horses, those strange, gigantic, and humpy horses, with their necks adorned with strings of beads and golden pieces, were piled toys. Little cardboard horses, windmills, charming clay figurines thumbed in heavenly leisure by the saints who once were artisans on earth, and bags chock-full of sweets, bon bons, and all kinds of delicious, tempting, sugary tid-bits, prepared with the honey-sweetness of the beatitude of the women saints who had been makers of sweetmeats in their convents.

Behind the kings one could see coming three more horses, loaded with divine gifts and priceless treasures for children.

When she saw them so near, the little girl could not any longer doubt. They were the Magi because they were exactly the same as those painted on the triptych of the cathedral.

The little girl heard them speaking very low. The woods became filled with a sweet and divine clarity as they passed.

The little girl heard:

"I wonder if the village is still far off. It is now three days since we left heaven through the golden door."

"AND how cold it is here," said the black king. "Poor people who live in this country, oh, if I could only give them the sun of Ethiopia. The children are waiting for us in their dreams. In all likelihood, the village is near, and I want to give the finest toys to the children of this snow-covered land."

The little girl was mute with surprise. Not a single doubt remained that they were the three Magi: Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. And at the same time she felt that a great joy in looking at the marvelous vision the little girl felt keen bitterness in thinking that they would soon pass under her window, they would not see her little shoes, and they would not leave any rich gift from heaven.

The cortege had stopped as if in search of the road leading to the village. The little girl realized that this was the moment, and she must not let them go by. Determined, she came from behind the tree, and making a solemn bow before the kings, she said, "Good evening to you, dear sirs."

HER voice was the purest and newest silver. The Magi turned on her their sweet, paternal, and benign eyes; particularly, the eyes of the

(*Will you please turn to page* 24)

The Hurricane

By IDA GIBBS HUNT

(Wife of the American Consul)

JUST as I had finished an article on Guadeloupe for THE CRISIS praising its beauties of nature and its kind, easy-going inhabitants with their sweet French manners, a terrible catastrophe blew out of the sea, laid its luxuriant vegetation low, and almost wiped out certain of its towns. Pointe-á-Pitre suffered the worst and though the consular building remains standing, it is much damaged. The corrugated iron roof was taken off, doors blown in, a partition felled, and much minor damage done. Our things, such as furniture and household effects, are nearly all ruined. Our lives are saved, *grace á Dieu,* though there are hundreds of dead.

Let me relate some details of our experiences which may interest you, even from my inadequate pen.

We had rented a pretty and solidly built summer house or villa, in the mountains at Trois-Riviéres for the hot months and my husband came up for the week-ends, except when the arrival of a steamer Sunday prevented.

On Wednesday, September 12th, a terrible wind arose before day and by ten o'clock it was blowing a perfect gale accompanied by driving storms. We (my "bonne" and I and her little girl of seven) stood on the veranda as long as we could, watching the fury of the storm and noticing what trees were losing their branches, not realizing that a cyclone was bearing down upon us. But soon we were obliged to come inside and close all of the doors. We have no windows. At this moment, a neighbor's little girl ran over saying that her mother had gone to market and had not yet returned, what was she to do? "Stay here," I said. Later she saw her mother coming, struggling against the wind and ran out and brought her in. Her mother had fallen twice and bruised her leg. While we doctored the bruises with hot salt water, the father came over also and said that a cyclone from around Martinique was predicted for Guadeloupe that night.

AT noon when my "bonne" spread the table and prepared to serve something to eat, the wind suddenly shifted from northwest to south, blew the bed-room door open as it went and drove in a wetting rain. After that, there was no more thought of eating. We were all busy locking and barring doors to the south, inside and outside ones, realizing that the cyclone was upon us already.

My thoughts went anxiously to my husband there alone in Pointe-á-Pitre.

The storm grew more and more furious every minute. Other neighbors came in for refuge and the woman with the bruised leg was crying and praying and calling on all of the Saints. I heard repeated again and again Saint Marie, St. Joseph, St. Christopher, till I grew nervous and retired to the north bed-room and lay down to still my beating heart and wait, not knowing whether this monster wind would pass and leave us safe or wipe us all out in its course. The rain poured in torrents, the wind whistled, roofs blew off, trees and branches fell on and around the house, and the air was full of sounds of destruction. The little girl curled up on the bed beside me crying with fear and her mother soon joined in. I tried to reassure them, saying that the house was too solidly constructed to be blown down, but that our roof might go. I was not certain though.

For three solid hours the rain fell in torrents and the wind blew an awful gale; but the end was not yet. By this time, part of our corrugated roof had been ripped off, making an infernal noise and the water began dripping down into the dining room from above. We lay low and let it drip, awaiting either death or an abatement. One thing that comforted me a little was that I've long had the impression, or presentiment, that I was not to die by violent means, and another thing was the thought that Pointe-á-Pitre, situated on a sort of bay or channel, was more protected than here.

AFTER five o'clock there was a slight calm, but the rainy deluge continued with hardly a minute's let up. By six, the wind had considerably decreased and I could move around and see how the others were faring. I found them frightened, chilly, and uncomfortable, but calmer. Water was two or three inches deep in the dining room and dripping from the ceilings more or less everywhere, even on the beds. We turned and pulled the things around to avoid the drops as much as possible, while the storm still raged.

At length we made the wet and cold guests as comfortable as possible, distributed a little food and wraps and again lay down, but not to sleep. The strong wind and heavy showers continued until after midnight, when an abatement was quite perceptible and one could doze off a bit.

Next morning we looked out on a scene of devastation and ruin unimaginable. Not a tree, nor a shrub in the yard was unharmed. All had been either uprooted or denuded of leaves and branches; pieces of roofing and wreckage lay all around and every house in the neighborhood was damaged or demolished. Desiccated leaves in abundance were scattered over the sides of our house and up under the veranda roof, several outside doors blown off their hinges and the balustrade of the veranda lacking in places. However on looking around we noticed so many others houseless or roofless that we felt blessed after all.

I had even thought of telegraphing Mr. Hunt first thing in the morning but saw that all wires were down and all means of communication cut off.

THE beautiful trees on the hill opposite me that I love so much to look at were missing altogether or lifting their naked, barren branches to the sky, a piteous sight. There was a clear view of the sea now still angry and raging where I had before only a glimpse of banana and mango leaves.

All day long no news from "the Pointe" and then, next morning, the most distressing reports of terrible destruction by wind and sea, of houses felled and numerous persons drowned. You can imagine my state of mind! Towards noon, however, a young man living near the consulate came in to say that Mr. Hunt was all right as he saw him just as he himself was leaving on foot to see how his mother had fared at G——, a little farther on. By boat and on foot over fallen trees and other debris he had taken a day and a half to travel some sixty kilometers. I shall always love that boy both for his filial devotion and for the good news he brought me.

Two days later the route was opened up by convict labor as far as the Riviére Salée (Salt River), a narrow channel separating the Basse-Terre side of the island from Pointe-á-Pitre, and the next day I was en route for the Pointe, as it is commonly called, with a friend and her husband. At the Salt River were dozens of automobiles and a great crowd soliciting boats to be ferried across to Pointe-á-Pitre, for the bridge had been blown

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"Sunshine Sammy"

(ERNEST MORRISON)

IN the City of New Orleans slightly more than a decade and a half ago, Ernest Morrison was born, the first child of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Morrison. About six months later, Mr. Morrison, a government employee in the Southwest, was granted a leave to California on account of trouble with his eyes. Later the interesting little family was united in Los Angeles. Despite the trouble with his eyes, Mr. Morrison was fascinated by the rapidly growing moving picture industry, and had no difficulty in seeing clearly the possibilities for those who would begin at the bottom and work hard. With this vision and the determination to succeed, this ambitious father coached his young hopeful and at the age of a year and a half, he began his moving picture career as an infant extra for the princely compensation of a dollar and a half a week.

This humble beginning was immediately crowned with success. A short time after his first appearance the promising little extra was featured as Sunshine Sammy co-star with Baby Marie Osborne in a regular photoplay. For three years following the little boy was featured in two and three reel comedies in which Harold Lloyd and Snub Pollard played the important adult roles. At the age of seven years he became the star of the "Our Gang" Comedies and was featured first in "The Little Piccaninny". His sister, the original Farina, created a stellar role in her own right in the Gang. Movie fans the world over recall the many fine productions in which this little star was featured for about seven years. It was quite an interesting trail from the role of an infant extra at a dollar and a half a week to a juvenile star at five hundred and fifty a week.

AT this, apparently the zenith of his career, it seemed that his producers wanted to feature one of the lesser lights to share the hard earned and thoroughly deserved honors of Sunshine Sammy. This arrangement was refused outright by the father and as a result his little boy left the screen. His actions in this particular case were criticised very severely by those who knew the facts and perhaps even more by those who knew nothing about the situation. However, Mr. Morrison felt that his son should remain the star of the group because by his own ability he had contributed more than anybody else to establish "Our Gang" in the hearts of movie fans.

During the three months following his withdrawal from the screen much time was spent in rest and some in the preparation of a vaudeville act conceived by Mr. Morrison. In going over the correspondence necessary to secure bookings, Mr. Morrison considered best the offer made by a Houston, Texas, theater manager. Thinking that he had closed a deal to play

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Sunshine Sammy and his Colleague

The Little Page

By EFFIE LEE NEWSOME

Calendar Chat

OUR old friend Janus again! January always makes one think of this Roman god who long ago was supposed to guard the commencement of each year. On the first day of the year people would dress in their finest clothing and exchange pleasant greetings in the market places and on the streets. And they would make gifts of appetizing honey cakes and dates and figs and all sorts of confections.

"Father of the morning" was another name for Janus. The Roman people bowed to him at the dawn of day for he was believed to be not only the guiding spirit of the new year but also of the new day. He is represented by a figure with two faces, one supposed to be gazing toward the beginning and the other the ending of affairs. We mentioned these two faces in a previous "Calendar Chat".

The first month of the year was held sacred to Janus and named for him by Numa far back in the past. So every New Year that comes is after all attended by very old traditions.

The Old Woman

I SAW an old woman in blueberry color
Come up with a basket from out of the cellar.
"Good woman, pray tell me, just what's in your hamper?"

"If I were to tell you, you surely would scamper,"
That's all that she answered, and hurried away,
And I've never seen her again since that day.

Spider and Amber

THE walls of amber hold fast many a spider that centuries ago, as resin came slowly trickling down a tree, has been borne onward with the sluggish stream and imprisoned as were other insects—and lizards—through all the countless years required to make amber of resin. How valuable the amber that comes set with encaged insects! How decorative my demure little lady spider sitting like a tiny brown teapot in the gold!

I've gone to our Norway spruce hedge at dawn and found spider web strands flashing with dew like holiday tinsel for fairies. And it really seemed not so bad after all, this business of being a spider. I believe you remember about Arachne. I've never known whether or not you and I are expected to feel sorry for her.

Minerva being a goddess was supposed to excel in everything just as certain classes of people because they are of one variety feel that necessarily they handle all matters better than others. Busy pretty little Arachne said that she produced finer needlework than the goddess Minerva, and maybe she did. But Minerva was so disgusted by this declaration from a mere mortal that she turned the little thing into a spider and still Arachne is working with exquisitely dainty threads though Minerva has become a part of the vapor of yesterday's dreams.

My Palace

I WISH those roundish silver spots
On butterflies were money.
I'd save them in my pocketbook
To buy just such a lovely nook
As I have very often planned,
Right in the heart of fairyland,
And spend some drops of money dew
For peacocks trimmed with golden blue.
I'd have my air perfumed with hints
Of hidden thyme and peppermints.

And all within my garden walls
You'd hear the little veery's calls.
My castle spires should tower high
With glassy roofs to show the sky
In rose and gold and violet
At dawn, through day and at sunset.

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The Guard and the Children. Dunbar Apartments, New York

THE N.A.A.C.P. BATTLE FRONT

A NEGRO SEA HERO

THE motion picture camera men were turning the cranks of their machines in front of the City Hall Building of New York. On the steps stood a small group of people while an admiring crowd watched from the Plaza. Down on this scene looked the soaring tower of the Woolworth Building. Opposite was the old Federal Building, in which testimony was being taken concerning the sinking of the steamship *Vestris,* off the Virginia Coast, with a loss of one hundred and eleven lives.

In the center of the group on the City Hall steps, small, neatly dressed, black, with a firm chin line, quiet demeanor and a smile that showed two rows of very white teeth, stood Lionel Licorish, Barbadian quartermaster of the *Vestris,* who single handed saved twenty lives, kept a life-boat full of people afloat for twenty-four hours during a gale, and then modestly admitted he had "done his duty". Next to Lionel Licorish, also small, and dapper, and smiling, with a twinkle, stood the Mayor of New York City. On the other side of Licorish, stood Nathan Straus, whose efforts in behalf of good milk for babies are known throughout the country. Beside the Mayor stood Grover Whalen, who has welcomed royalty to New York City, and others in the group included Charles H. Tuttle, United States Attorney in charge of the *Vestris* inquiry, and James Weldon Johnson, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

There were many who had come to the City Hall for this occasion. They included clergymen, editors, among them Alderman Fred R. Moore, editor of the *New York Age;* W. H. Davis, editor of the *Amsterdam News,* and many others well known in the life of Harlem and of New York City. They were present at the highest honor the city could bestow on any citizen: an official welcome by the Mayor.

IN addresses delivered in the official welcoming room of the City Hall, the reason for these ceremonies was made quite clear. Speaking for the N. A. A. C. P., Mr. Johnson said he took a pardonable pride in emphasizing the fact that of the heroic actions in one of the worst sea disasters that had ever occurred off the American coast the outstanding act of bravery was that

Lionel Licorish

of a colored man. It showed, he said, that courage knows no limitation of race, creed or color.

U. S. District Attorney Tuttle, who followed Mr. Johnson, spoke of his gratification at being able to be present and to pay tribute to a man who had shown not alone bravery but intelligence. Mr. Tuttle described the action of Lionel Licorish as "a shaft of light stabbing the darkness" of the night that hung over the *Vestris* disaster. He added, speaking as United States Attorney in charge of the federal inquiry, that no witness on the stand had more favorably impressed the commission or had told a more intelligent straightforward story than this same little black quartermaster from the Barbadoes. This statement coming from Mr. Tuttle was the more impressive, in that a cowardly attempt had been made to throw the blame for the sinking of the vessel upon a "mutiny" of the black gang, the firemen, who had stuck by their posts and by orders until the last moment and had left the *Vestris* only a few minutes before she sank into the depths of the ocean.

The N. A. A. C. P., incidentally had promptly characterized this attempt to slur the black gang as a cowardly subterfuge, pointing out to the newspapers and people of New York and the nation, that it was only the officers of the *Vestris* whose memories of the disaster were vague and confused; that there had been no semblance of discipline or centralized authority on the ship and no orders issued for the safety of the passengers; and that the men who behaved in heroic fashion and later told honest, clear and straightforward stories before the investigating commission were Negroes: Lionel Licorish and Joseph Boxhill, a colored fireman.

THE third speaker to pay tribute to Lionel Licorish, was the aged Nathan Straus, who said that this was his first visit to the City Hall and that it took such an act of bravery and an opportunity to pay tribute to it such as this to bring him there. He said emphatically that one of the dreams of his youth had been to save a human life, and that there had been no human being he was more anxious to meet than quartermaster Licorish.

The last speaker but one at this impressive occasion was Mayor James Walker of New York. The Mayor spoke of the city, the greatest in the Western Hemisphere, probably the greatest in the world. He touched upon the various races and nations represented in its population. Turning then to quartermaster Licorish the Mayor said:

"When you left that ship and reached out your hands to save someone else's life, it is fair and reasonable to suppose that no one asked you what race you belonged to—no one asked you where you were born and no one was interested in your color. They were mighty glad to have your arms around them and they were mighty glad to accept the help you brought them.

"That was all right out there in the raging waters. That was fine when the ship was going down. But I am rather inclined to believe that if we did a little more while the ship was sailing smoothly, along the same line, if we had the same willingness to accept assistance and the same absence of discrimination, even this would be a greater country than it is today."

Finally, Lionel Licorish, asked to do what was probably the "hardest job in a quartermaster's life", to reply to an address by the Mayor of New York, stood quietly and addressed the gathering. He said he would wish no one to go through what he had endured through a long night some two weeks before. He would not wish to go through it again. But it was a great thing to have come through it and be alive this day. Then, with a flash of smile that brought a sympathetic re-

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THE POET'S CORNER

THE PSALM

By ANNICE CALLAND

"During the several years spent in the West Indies, I resided for almost a year in the city of Saint Marc, Haiti. While stopping at the hotel there I met a Negro woman of great influence in Haiti during the years Guilliame Vilbrun Sam was President of Haiti. At the time I was in Saint Marc, she was managing the hotel there and as we became acquainted, she told me many interesting stories of the West India Negroes, 'The Psalm' being one of them. I do not vouch for the truth of the story and neither did she for that matter, but I loved her stories and have been trying to put them into poems.

"The dialect used is that of the less fortunate English speaking Negroes of British governed Islands as I remember it."

CHRIST Jesus Almighty, I is trustin' in yo'!
O Lord, save I! Save I!
De sea is bellowin' with hell in its mouth,
Lord Jesus hear it cry!

"I is promis' yo' I is preach de Gospel,
Preach it in Bairbados.
De ship she shudders; she is breakin' up,
God keep I when she goes!

"Dey mus' go firs' de women an' de childern.
Grey things creep up lak ghos'!
O Lord Jesus, let I live! Save I
From de sea's mad demonry hos'!"

* * *

"Laance yo' isn't ever been in Bairbados,
Dey hates us Jamaicans dere;
Does dey kill yo' dey do it with de Psalm;
Where is yo' den? Where?"

"I is tellin' yo', brother, I is work for Jesus;
I is promis' Him I go;
An' I isn't been killed off yet, is I?
I isn't goin' borrow no woe.

"Though I is 'fraid of death by de Psalm
I is willin' to take a chance."
"Den yo' is right to go ahead;
De Lord watch over yo', Laance."

* * *

BARBADOS lies in Caribbean waters,
Dripping in colorful light,
And sun-sifted shade of the tangled bush
Sweet as lime flowers at night.

The evening tradewind was faintly vibrant
With taut-tuned, steel-like strings
When Lance made his way to the mission house—
Staunch scion of jungle kings.

His soot black body was six-foot-two;
His muscles rippled and rolled
Like the waters of a sleek, jet black cascade;
His eyes were soft yet bold.

The strangest feature of his strange face
Was his nose convex like a beak.
His golden voice flowed like sunlight
Over June's rose tinted cheek.

When Lance in new white shirt and trousers
Entered the tabernacle door,
The "revivalis' meetin'" was in full swing,
Brother Anselm held the floor.

He had promised Lance that he should speak;
Was helpful and benign
When Lance plead: "I is got de voice;
I kin preach,
Mahster, pleas' yo' be so kin'."

Lance's sermon was his soul's overflowing;
He drew himself up tall;
Let his features soften and his dark eyes glow
While he preached of the sin of all.

His hearers cried out hysterically;
Their African fervor soared.
Till—"No damned Jamaican kin save my soul,"
A black Barbadian roared.

"WHY is yo' preachin' to us in Bairbados,
Yo' lyin' whelp of a spy?"
Lance said: "I is come for de God Almighty
Who knows yo' is tellin' a lie."

"Down with dat swine, dat lyin' Jamaican,
He is come to spy on us,"
Scraggs, the Barbadian leader barked,
"Grab on to dat spyin' cuss."

"Baack to de boats on de carrenage;
Baack to de council room;
He will tell us dere what he is doin' here
Or go to de devil's doom."

For black Barbadians rule black Barbadians
As only Obeah-taught can
Surreptitiously under the rule
Of the governing White Man.

Thick walls of stone formed the squat old building
Well hidden in jungle bush;
There Lance was brought through a heavy door,
In the tropic evening hush.

One thing struck hard on Lance as he entered,
Four rings in the wall of stone,
Four rings where a man could be spread-eagled,
And no friend hear his moan.

"Dere's jes' one way to kill a Jamaican,"
Their brutal chieftain said.
"De Psalm! De Psalm!" his comrades shouted,
They felt he was good as dead.

Their forbears living in Africa
Had been Papaloi ruled men—
To kill let a proper curse be uttered,
Foes died invariably then.

LANCE stood immobile as Scraggs sternly ordered:
"Fetch he to de en' wall!"
There they lashed him to the iron rings
Where he towered huge and tall.

"Fetch de Book, an' de drums, an' de caandles,"
Scraggs barked in a passion filled voice,
"Yo' is voted to kill him by de Psalm;
On his soul mus' res' your choice."

In ringing words Lance defied his enemies:
"Yo' kin pray till yo' lose your breath;
Burn a thousan' caandles, sing ten thousan' Psalms,
Yo' kin never pray I to death!"

The roar of hard hands on drumheads thundered
And broke the midnight calm;
The Barbadian chief flung his arms in the air
And began the chosen Psalm:
"Hol' not Thy peace, O God of our praise,"
His voice cried in the gloom.
It was the most powerful curse they knew,
More final than Voodoo Doom.

With howls like wild beasts scenting meat
His followers made reply:
"For de mouth of de wicked an' de mouth of de deceitful has opened agains' us:
He has spoken agains' us with a lyin' tongue."

With black bodies bending in unison,
With outflung arms, all cried:

"He is compassed us about with words of hatred,
An' is fought agains' us without a cause.
Set Thou a wicked maan over him;
An' let Satin staand at his right haand.
When he is judged let him be found guilty;

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ALONG THE COLOR LINE

NEW ENGLAND

¶ Miss Edith G. Brown recently has been appointed as a teacher in the history department of the Girls Memorial High School of Boston, Mass., where she has been teaching for the past two years under temporary appointment. Miss Brown, who received the M. S. degree from Boston Teachers College, is the first Negro to receive appointment to teach in the high schools of Boston.

¶ When the Springfield College cross-country team ran against the West Point Cadets recently, it was minus the services of M. M. Greene, colored captain of the Springfield team, because of a West Point ruling prohibiting colored boys from participation against the Cadets.

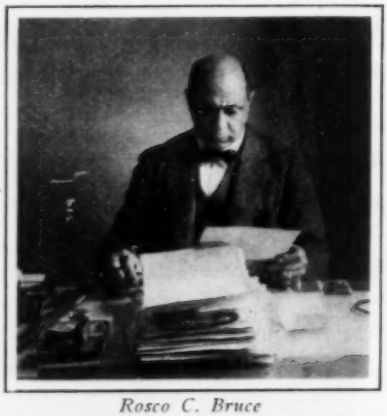
¶ O'Brien's "Best Short Stories of 1928" includes the work of three members of the Saturday Evening Quill Club of Boston, Mass.: "An Unimportant Man", by Dorothy West; "Coldblooded" and "Alien", by Eugene Gordon; and "Black Madness" by Gertrude Schalk.

¶ Bequests of $50,000 each were made to Hampton Institute, Tuskegee Institute, and Calhoun Normal School, according to the terms of the will of Mrs. Ida Means Mason, Boston, Mass.

THE MIDDLE STATES

¶ When the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments, Incorporated, were planned, a vital question was their management. It would have been, perhaps, natural, to have appointed a white man as manager on the ground that few Negroes had the requisite experience; but Rockefeller interests decided to make a colored man the manager and chose Roscoe Conklin Bruce. Mr. Bruce is the son of the only Negro Senator who served a full term and his mother was the first colored school teacher of Cleveland, Ohio. He was born in 1879, educated at Phillip Exeter and Harvard College, where he was noted as a member of the University debating society and won the Phi Beta Kappa key.

¶ He began as a teacher, directing the academic department of Tuskegee for four years; then he became supervising principal of the public schools of Washington; and finally for fourteen years, assistant superintendent in charge of the colored schools of the District. Mr. Bruce resigned in 1921



Rosco C. Bruce

after a long controversy which THE CRISIS commented on at the time. He became principal of the Brown Creek District High School, Kimball, W. Va., and finally, in 1927, he became Resident Manager of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments and Director of the Dunbar National Bank. Mr. Bruce has had a long and useful career and has done the unusual thing of changing from one profession to another with success.

¶ The old idea of man and helpmate as the economic foundation of the marriage relation has been rather upset in our day by the change in women's work. Not every educated woman wants to be a cook and maid even for her husband and Mrs. Clara Burrill Bruce has solved the problem in another way. She was educated in the public schools of Washington, taught at Tuskegee, and, marrying Mr. Bruce, took her place as housewife and mother. Then in 1923 she entered the law school of Boston University, made a distinguished record, being

Mrs. Clara B. Bruce

editor-in-chief of the *Law Review*, member of the student council and class day orator. Mrs. Bruce maintained the highest scholastic record for three years, and was awarded the Robinson Prize and the Woolsack key. She was admitted to the bar in 1926, and then joined her husband as assistant manager and attorney of the Dunbar Apartments.

¶ Late in October, "The Nazarene Players", under the direction of Richard B. Harrison, nationally known dramatic reader, presented "Diana of the Ephesians" in the Little Theatre of Nazarene Congregational Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

¶ Ira D. Reid, who has been serving as Industrial Secretary of the New York branch of the Urban League since 1925, has been made Director of the Department of Research and Investigation of the National Urban League, succeeding Charles S. Johnson, who is now a professor at Fisk University.

¶ Gus Moore, 21 year old Negro, and a former scholastic mile champion, won the national cross country championship race at Van Cortlandt Park, New York City, recently. Mr. Moore was 100 yards in the lead of his nearest competitor. His victory is the first scored in this classic by an American born runner since 1921, and his time for the six mile course was 31 minutes, 18 seconds.

¶ On November 1, Charles Greene, a colored man, became a junior clerk in the legal department of the New York Central Railroad, the first of his race to fill such a position. Mr. Greene has been with the New York Central for ten years, first as attendant and then as clerk, while he was attending Fordham College and Fordham Law School, New York City.

¶ Mrs. Blanche Brookins, who in July, 1927, was put in jail at Jacksonville, Fla., and fined $500 because she refused to be transferred to a Jim Crow car, has recently been awarded $2750 from the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. This case, which was handled by the N. A. A. C. P., through its attorney, Arthur Garfield Hayes, emphasizes that passengers in interstate traffic are not subject to Jim-Crow regulations of Southern states without equal accommodation being furnished by the railroad.

¶ Fifteen representatives of skilled Negro labor met recently at the Bor-

John A. Lee, page 19

dentown Manual Training School upon request of Principal W. R. Valentine to discuss the problems which the school meets in the vocational training of its students, as well as the situation which the skilled Negro workman of New Jersey faces in general.

¶ The formal opening of New York's latest venture in housing for Negro girls, the Club Caroline, was held recently. The club will provide housing for 121 girls. Each has a separate bed and suitable arrangements for caring for personal effects. Two large rooms for social meetings and offices are located on the ground floor. There is a laundry with stationary tubs, indoor steam drying chest and ironing boards, and a kitchen with a separate gas stove for each girl. The price scales are set with no idea of making a profit.

¶ The Negro Art Group Hour has been a weekly feature on WEVD radio programs, New York City, for the past season. Well known speakers, writers and musicians have contributed to make it a success.

¶ *Harlem,* a new independent monthly magazine, made its initial appearance in November. Wallace Thurman is editor; Aaron Douglas, art editor; and S. Pace Alexander, managing editor.

¶ In order to promote health and to provide recreation for colored children, the Utopia Children's House, was recently opened in New York City, through a gift of $37,500 from John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

¶ Samuel B. Hart and William H. Fuller, colored men, were elected for third terms to the Pennsylvania State Legislature in the recent election.

¶ Ronald A. Edwards, a colored lad, was among the thirty-six New York City high school graduates who received a Pulitzer scholarship at Columbia University this year. In addition to free tuition, he will receive $250 a year for four years. Ronald also received a $150 cash award for having the highest record in his class.

¶ William Curtis Craver, who for ten years has been a national student leader of the Y. M. C. A., has resigned this position to become Field Secretary of Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C. Mr. Craver will act as Executive Financial Secretary to take the leadership in planning improvements, new buildings, enlarged endowments and a general extension of the work at Shaw within the next four years.

WASHINGTON AND VIRGINIA

¶ The theme of the Interracial Conference which was held in Washington, D. C., during December, was "Race Problems in the United States in the Light of Social Research". Among the speakers were: Mordecai Johnson, President of Howard University; Charles S. Johnson, Fisk University; Louis I. Dublin, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Algernon B. Jackson, Howard University; W. A. Robinson, Principal of Austin High School, Knoxville, Tenn.; Mabel Carney, Columbia University; Monroe N. Work, Tuskegee Institute; Niles Carpenter, University of Buffalo; Forrester B. Washington, Atlanta School of Social Work; Thorsten Sellin, University of Pennsylvania; Lawrence Oxley, Director, North Carolina Bureau of Negro Work; Charles E. Merriam, University of Chicago; and W. E. B. Du Bois, New York City.

¶ Farm and Home Demonstration Agents working in 36 counties, met during the week of November 12-17 at Hampton Institute for discussion of problems confronting these workers for improvement of the homes and farms of the rural sections of Virginia.

¶ Plans for the annual banquet of the Foreign Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Churches of Washington and vicinity, which was scheduled to take place at the Willard Hotel recently, were suddenly changed when the hotel refused to accommodate three Negro members because of a ruling of the Waiters' Union not to serve mixed groups.

THE SOUTHEAST

¶ The Fact Finding Conference, which met in Durham, N. C., in December, 1927, will meet again in Durham the first week in April, 1929, according to the announcement made by Dr. James E. Shepherd, chairman.

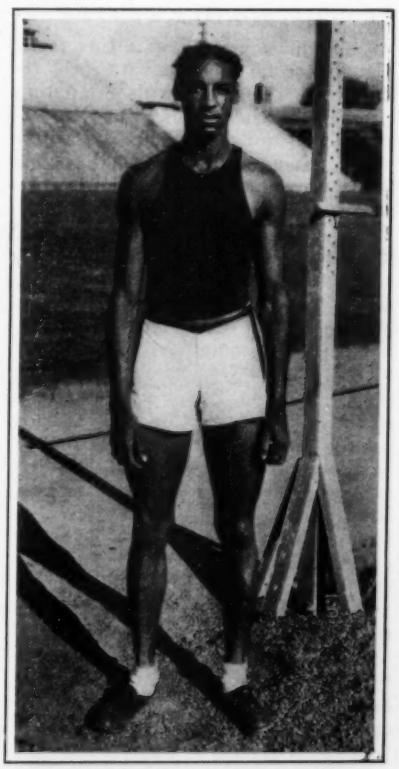
¶ Charles Edward Arnold, Manager of the Underwriting Department of the National Benefit Life Insurance Company's office at Atlanta, Ga., died in November. Mr. Arnold received the B. A. degree from Harvard University in 1917.

¶ For the third consecutive year Lieutenant Lawrence A. Oxley of Gastonia, N. C., has been selected by Negro and white veterans to serve as one of the four department vice-commanders of the North Carolina American Legion.

¶ Prince J. E. Blayechettai of Abyssinia, East Africa, son of the late King Tch-laihimanout, king of Tigre, addressed the student body of A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C., recently at the chapel exercises.

¶ Formal dedication exercises for a $75,000 graded school, a modern, fireproof building of 30 rooms, were held at Durham, N. C., recently. The school was named for William G. Pearson, who has given 45 years of uninterrupted service in Durham's public school system, and who was a Harmon prizeman in the field of business for 1928.

¶ The Leonard Street Home for Colored Girls, Atlanta, Ga., has recently opened a three-teacher school for its own children and those of the community.



Edward L. Gordon, University of Iowa, Contestant in Olympic Games

W. J. Hale

¶ The first steps were taken in the re-establishment of the Shaw University Law School early in November when night classes in law lectures were set in operation.

¶ Beginning its 46th annual session, Paine College, co-educational institution, located at Augusta, Ga., recently opened with an enrollment of 100 in the college department and 237 in the high school.

THE BORDER STATES

¶ The ninth annual State Interracial Conference for Kentucky was held recently in Louisville with interesting programs, including discussions of better salaries for Negro teachers, equitable division of public bonds, better school buildings and facilities, provision for college training, library facilities for Negroes, health education, etc.

¶ The cornerstone for the new colored high school at Frankfort, Ky., which cost $75,000, and has eleven classrooms, a gymnasium, auditorium, and two restrooms, was laid on November 11.

¶ W. J. Hale, President of the Tennessee A. & I. State College, was born in a backwoods community. Sixteen years ago, he induced the state of Tennessee to establish a Negro State College. The college has 200 acres of land with eleven large buildings, and expends $250,000 a year.

THE MIDDLE WEST.

¶ Extension of the activities of the Julius Rosenwald Fund of Chicago, heretofore chiefly concerned with the building of Negro rural schools to include support of medical services to people of moderate means, was announced recently by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Fund.

¶ When William J. Warfield was elected to the Illinois general assembly in the recent election, the Negro minority in the State Legislature was swelled by one. Others elected were Harris Gaines, George Blackwell, William King and George Kersey.

¶ Perry Jackson, young Negro attorney of Cleveland, Ohio, has been elected to the State Assembly.

¶ The Cleveland branch of the N. A. A. C. P. opposed the recent $2,500,000 welfare bond program of that city, charging that no colored nurses or internes are permitted at the City Hospital and that a quota system is in use at the Boys' farm and Girls' farm where incorrigibles are kept. Dudley S. Blossom, head of the welfare department, in his correspondence with the N. A. A. C. P. took an adamant stand against the demands of the N. A. A. C. P. for the removal of all racial bars in local public welfare institutions.

¶ Alonzo Grace, a white man, supervisor of adult education in Cleveland, has instituted a class on the American Negro for the benefit of teachers who deal with colored children. The class meets weekly under the leadership of Mr. Grace and has a membership of fifty.

¶ The white property owners in a certain section of Englewood, Illinois, recently held a mass meeting under the auspices of the Englewood Property Restriction Association, for the purpose of arranging a pact which will prevent the ownership or occupancy of property in that section by other than members of the Nordic races.

¶ Harry J. Walker is the first Negro to secure appointment as deputy clerk in the Municipal Court of Cleveland, Ohio.

¶ The publication of Indiana University giving the scholarship status of all the fraternities and sororities during the past semester, places the Kappa Alpha Psi, Negro fraternity, at the head of the list.

¶ An unusual form of segregation was discovered in Cleveland, Ohio, recently, in connection with the sales of the Singer Sewing Machine Company to housewives under an agreement to give them a course in sewing at schools maintained by the company. When machines are sold to Negro housewives they are directed to attend one particular school, regardless of their home location, while the white housewives are directed to attend another.

¶ The Gaudeamus Charity Club of Chicago, has awarded a four year scholarship in Commercial Art, which amounts to $200 a year, to Miss Malinda Christmas. Miss Christmas was graduated from the Wendell Phillips High School in June, 1927, finishing the four year course in three years. She was valedictorian of her class, and had the highest average in Chicago at that time.

¶ After twenty-seven years, the Negro race is to have one of its members in the United States Congress. Illinois' wealthiest congressional district is to be represented by Oscar DePriest. DePriest was born 57 years ago in Florence, Ala., and has lived for 30 years in Chicago. He was educated in the common schools and a business college in Florence and worked as a painter when he first came to Chicago. He was a county commissioner from 1904 to 1908 and served as alderman from 1915 to 1917.

Hale Hall. A. & I. State College, Tennessee

Georges Brashear

¶ Russell Davis has been appointed principal of night classes at the Bolton School, Cleveland, Ohio. This is the first time in the record of the Cleveland school system that a colored man has had such a position.

TRANS MISSISSIPPI

¶ John W. Wright, a colored man of Wichita, Kansas, has been appointed as county treasurer.

¶ On November 2, the National Benefit Life Insurance Company officially opened the Iowa Territory at Des Moines with the appointment of Charles P. Howard as General Agent.

¶ There will be two Negroes in the next Missouri State Legislature. Walthan Moore was re-elected for the fourth term, while G. M. Allen will begin his first term.

¶ Fort Scott, Kansas, lost its suit to oust Dr. J. W. Brown from his home and veterinary hospital. In response to petitions signed by neighbors, the City Council passed an ordinance making it unlawful for anyone to keep infected animals for treatment within 100 feet of a private dwelling. The discriminatory nature of the ordinance was shown when a neighboring white veterinarian in the same block was allowed to continue practising unmolested while Dr. Brown was arrested.

LOUISIANA AND THE SOUTH-EAST

¶ At the annual meeting of the Texas State Interracial Committee held recently in Dallas, the major objectives set for the coming year were: a crusade against lynching; investigation of transportation facilities; the betterment of educational conditions; an appropriation for the erection of a school for delinquent colored girls; and support of public health work.

¶ William H. Bell, who received the M. A. degree in Economics at Northwestern University at the close of the summer session, 1928, has been appointed as chairman of the Department of Social Science at the Agricultural and Normal University, Langston, Okla.

¶ G. W. Jackson, who was born in Lee County, Alabama, went to Corsicana when he was a young man and began to teach in the rural schools of Navarro County. He attended summer Normal schools for teachers during the years of his rural teaching, and afterwards attended Fisk University, from which he was graduated. Mr. Jackson was elected principal of the Frederick Douglass High School in Corsicana in 1882 in which he taught for 39 years. Since the burning of the original building, a modern one has been built in its place and renamed the G. W. Jackson High School.

THE PACIFIC AND MOUNTAIN STATES

¶ In the fall competition for membership in Rad Rune of the American College Quill Club at the University of Denver, seven manuscripts were selected from fifty-two submitted. J. Alpheus Butler, a colored student, and a senior at the University, was second in the list of successful candidates.

¶ Frederick M. Roberts of Los Angeles, Calif., was elected to represent the Seventy-fourth Assembly District in the recent election.

¶ It has been reported that several secret meetings have been held by white people of Pasadena, Calif., for the purpose of having the colored students of the Grover Cleveland School removed to a separate building.

¶ John A. Lee, colored steward of the Billings, Mont., Commercial Club for over 25 years, died recently in that city at the age of 81 years. Mr. Lee was born in Charleston, S. C., in slavery and lived there until he was a young man when he entered the military service. He served in the army for 13 years and soon after his discharge, he migrated to Billings where he lived until his death. The funeral services for Mr. Lee were held at the Commercial Club and nearly the entire Negro population of the city was in attendance, as well as most of the members of the club and many of the pioneer residents of the city.

SOUTH AMERICA

¶ Brigadier-General Sir Gordon Guggisberg, the former Governor of the Gold Coast, has taken up his new post as Governor of British Guiana.

EUROPE

¶ After more than two years in attendance at the Uppsvenska (Medical) Gymnastiska Institute, Georges Brashear, a colored American, has received the degree of Medical Gymnast. This degree is issued only by the government of Sweden.

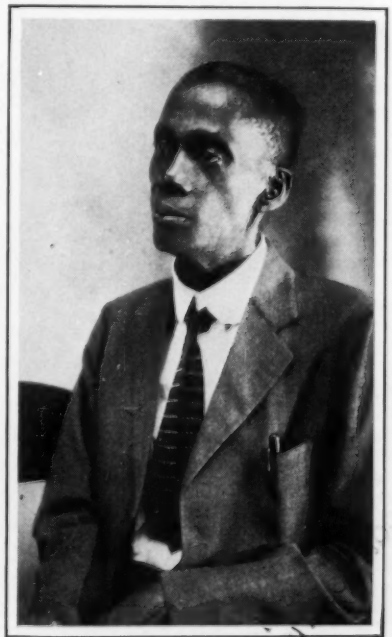
LIBERIA

¶ President King of Liberia delivered his annual message to the Legislature in October at the Hall of Representatives to the House, the Cabinet, the Foreign Diplomatic Corps and representatives from all parts of the Republic. President King spoke of the friendly relations existing between Liberia and the foreign powers; of the financial progress of Liberia during the past year; and of the progress in the Departments of Public Works and Education. He also said The Firestone plantations are rapidly developing; large tracts of land have been cleared, many miles of good roads constructed and bungalows built.

WEST AFRICA

¶ Speaking to the Congo Labour Commission on the question of the alleged lack of discipline among the natives of the Congo, Colonial Minister Jasper said that the natives were not in a state of latent revolt. The Colonial Office at Brussels, is studying the question of penalities to be imposed in cases of indiscipline and is thinking of reintroducing corporal punishment.

¶ The Colonial Office is considering proposals for a new constitution for Achimota College, the chief feature being control by a council representing both races: four members to be ap-



G. W. Jackson

pointed by the Governor; six African members, one of them a woman; four elected by the staff and the Principal.

¶ The first native Catholic priest of Dahomey, Fr. Thomas Moulero, has recently been ordained at Ouidah. At the same time another Dahoman, the Rev. Gabriel Kiti, was raised to the sub-diaconate.

¶ N. G. J. Ballanta, an African musician and composer, and Guggenheim Fellow for 1927-28, has been visting in Lagos, where he gave a recital at St. Paul's Church and one at the Glover Memorial Hall.

¶ The white population of the Belgian Congo has tripled in the last ten years. In 1928 the white population totaled 20,702, of which 14,147 were Belgians; in 1918 the white population amounted to 6,270, of which 3,285 were Belgians; and in 1908 there were only 2,843 white inhabitants, 1,713 of which were Belgians.

¶ The first lending library for natives in West Africa has been started at Accra. Books of all descriptions are welcome and should be sent to the Bishop of Accra, Missionary Equipment Supply, Church House, S. W.

¶ Refusal of a white club at Bamako, French Soudan, to admit a Negro officer has aroused much discussion in the Soudan and in France, and has brought about the resignation of every white officer in the club. Captain Bebel, a native of the French West Indies, was proposed for membership in the Soudan Club upon his arrival at Bamako. The president of the club replied that in a special session the members had decided to refuse admission to Captain Bebel "in conformity with its rules".

SOUTH AFRICA

¶ W. B. Madeley, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in the Union of South Africa, was asked to resign when he met a deputation from the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union, a native organization which is aiming to obtain higher wages and better conditions of labor for native workers. Mr. Madeley, a Socialist who was nominated by the Labour Party, refused to resign and Premier Hertzog tendered his own resignation to the officer administering the Government, whereupon he was invited by the officer to form a new cabinet. Mr. Madeley was the only member dropped and his place was filled by H. W. Sampson, who represents the Nationalist wing of the Labour Party. The incident which led to Mr. Madeley's dismissal is generally regarded as a pretext on the part of the Prime Minister to rid himself of a person who has been a thorn in the side of the Government for several months.

¶ Following on the round-table conference held in Cape Town recently, an inquiry into the question of the housing and sanitary conditions of Indians in and around Durban has been started. The principal witnesses are the Mayor and Members of the Council, who advocate the housing of the poorer class of Indians in a native village about a mile and a half outside the borough boundaries. The Indian community, oppose the proposal on the ground that it amounts to compulsory segregation.

¶ Twelve South African educational and cultural leaders will visit the United States during the next year under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, for the purpose of studying American public school systems and other agencies of education and culture.

¶ A conference was held in Bloemfontein in October, to consider holding an African Exhibition in South Africa in 1932.

¶ W. P. Johnson, of the Universities' Mission of Central Africa, after fifty-two years of work in Africa, died in October at Luili, on Lake Nyasa. Mr. Johnson became Archdeacon of Nyasa in 1896 and Canon of Likoma Cathedral in 1922. From 1925 until his death, he was in charge of the Mission Station at Manda.

Zulu Girls, Rhodesia, South Africa

THE FAR HORIZON

NEGRO ART IN EUROPE

ROLAND HAYES begins his fifth annual tour in America this winter and will sing in Akron, Ann Arbor, Boston, Bridgeport, Buffalo, Charleston, W. Va., Indianapolis, Lexington, Ky., Los Angeles, Louisville, Milwaukee, New Haven, New York, Oakland, Omaha, Portland, Ore., Providence, Rochester, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Spokane, Springfield, Mass., St. Louis, Toledo, Toronto, Vancouver, Washington, Waterbury, and Wellesley, Mass. This gives interest to an interview with Roland Hayes published in the Amsterdam, Holland, *Telegraph* last January. We quote part:

At our first meeting he had already said without any pretense and in his gentle kindness: "An interview? All right, but you shall have to do the talking. I haven't the gift to tell all that there is for me to say."

And, in the large dark reception room of his hotel he sat awaiting his lot, resigned. He is ready to declare that the Amsterdam audience is the most artistic in the world and Amsterdam the finest city he has ever seen, that he knows no "ensemble" like the Concert Cebouw Orchestra and that he had always longed to visit Holland, having been told so much about it.

His slight shoulders carry world renown. He is prepared to accept the unavoidable consequences thereof. And he waits with a certain shyness in his eyes, an obliging gesture, his voice soft. He has a courteous manner, a quiet style that envelops him and seems to create an atmosphere of fragility.

Do you know the feeling that comes over you when you are sitting opposite somebody whose voice is much softer than your own, whose gestures have subtler movements, whose eyes look at the world with greater tenderness? At such a moment you cannot find your words because they all seem awkward and harsh—you can hardly take off your coat for fear of causing too much noise. You think: "Here I am, now I shall have to say something."

And we begin with the important question if and where we shall have lunch. We laugh quite a lot and walk hurriedly trying to ignore the terrible emptiness. Suddenly we are sitting. We don't know how to go on, the laugh disappears as powder can if it is dissolved. A void, I feel him thinking: "Go ahead", and I myself think: "Now begin", while I keep looking at his neat dark suit and his fine head and wonderful slim hands. We start stuttering at the same time—we carry through. It commences.

I ask him about Negro Musical Art, Spirituals, blues, and mention great names of those I had the privilege of hearing and meeting in New York; Robeson, Johnson, Ethel Waters, etc. We come to the great point, the important question: The new Negro.

"You know one cannot say the New Negro is this or that. The New Negro is only just forming himself. If one were to write about him now, taking into account this enormous cultural movement as an ascertained fact, already one would be running ages ahead of time. People talk too much—more harm has been done by talking than anyone thinks.

"Surely it is all great and very important, only it is not the visible form that is mightiest, that counts most. That is not finished and what has been done so far seems incomplete. Behold the thought, the idea of it—that truly is great. See how the Negro begins to rise up, trying to create a new world, choosing from his own and other people's culture, kneeding it, forging it together so as to come to a life which be worthy forever.

"What has been achieved is a Harlem which one finds in so many places in America. Admire it but see the values justly. Notice that the will is infinitely greater than the result.

"Get the values rightly"—that is a sentence which is repeated often in all that he says. The reticence has dropped away and the gentle voice takes the vibrating tone of his singing, the words come tenderly with hesitation and pauses so as to find the right accent,—again to give the right values. And to the interviewer the man changes—he is more than the expected pioneer for his race, for his art, because he does not speak directly of that race and that art, but one feels that he looks beyond to the force that makes race and art move and live to that which is everlasting, that always was and always will be.

It is that which guides him—it has carried him through all the pain and hardship during his upward struggle in the world. It made him undertake the long way, beginning as a poor Negro boy in Georgia where his parents had been slaves,—leaving everything behind for the one aim he has in view and always seeing that dazzled by the unutterable glory of what he feels to be his vocation in life. All troubles, all sorrows have become kindness and tenderness, which shows itself in the gesture with which he puts aside all insignificant things, with which he describes himself only as an instrument, a mediator, sure and true in his pure childlike modesty.

He has sung for kings, for halls crowded with thousands and thousands and yet he says: "See the values rightly". His biographer speaks of voices such as Jeanne of Domrémy heard. Roland Hayes heard voices and followed them,—what subtle irony!—for him the heavens opened while first hearing a gramophone as a little boy at his white employer's house.

"People always consider me a singer of Spirituals. That is not quite right. What moves me in the Spirituals also moves me in Schubert—not the fact that they were composed by Negroes, but that inspiration which fired the Negroes to create them just as Schubert was inspired—not the stove but the fire inside of it. I only consider a furnace good if it turns into fire when it is burning."

Hayes visited Russia in February, a year ago, at the invitation of the Soviet Government. He gave five recitals in Moscow, two in Leningrad, and single concerts in Kiev, Kharkov and Rostov. The *Pravda* said of his first concert:

As we have already written in our preliminary note, Roland Hayes' debut in Moscow, organized by Rosphil—now the concert bureau of the academic theatres—*had* to be the greatest event of the musical world of today, and truly it has proved itself the greatest. We have every reason to say that with the appearance of Hayes the Moscow public received a great number of artistic impressions which cannot be forgotten, and the Soviet vocal art has received an impetus for its further development. We had before us a rare and marvellous artist of chamber music.

Out of every song with its deeply musical mood was born a feeling of wonder reaching such a high point in technique that we can speak of it only with the highest praise. The voice of Hayes does not belong to the strong or brilliant type, his voice is rather soft-hued for a tenor, perhaps not even vivid for his highest notes. He is typically the lyric singer, lacking the strongly pathetic tones but capable at the same time of causing his hearers to experience just what he feels. Everything coarse or rude and affected is entirely strange to his artistical nature. The thoughtful and sweet Schubert or the mighty Brahms, the indisputably good Italian arias, the sad humor of the Negro hymns, he gives them all in such a way that every moment one forgets about the artist as interpreter who comes between the audience and the song. Further, Hayes' program was based on such sharp contrasts as the Italian airs of the seventeenth century and the Negro spirituals of today that the enchantment cast upon the public was complete.

According to our opinion the talent of Hayes shows itself the deeper in the

(*Will you please turn to page* 28)

THE BROWSING READER

In the Magazines

"COUSCOUS and Sole Marguery" by Webb Waldron in the *Living Age* for November paints Morocco as the winter tourists's paradise. Fresh from a bustling, smart European hotel, Mr. Waldron thrusts us into a languorous, medieval setting, mysterious with shadowy passageways, and flecked with dim, veiled figures; into sunny Moorish gardens, lush with flower and fruit; into a Morocco of brown-legged water venders and half-naked children. Mr. Waldron says that at this moment, Morrocco is the same land that Leo the African saw four hundred years ago.

Foreign Affairs for October carries the history of the struggle of "France and Italy in North Africa", by C. A. Le Neuveu, from 1830, when France first set out to conquer Algeria, down to the present, when there is still contention and bickering between France and Italy in Tunis and Morocco. It is a story, told without unseeming prejudice, of conquest, strategy, scheming, and exploitation.

John Pepper in *The Communist* for October writes on "American Negro Problems". Mr. Pepper says that now that a Negro proletariat is appearing in the cities of the North and East, and that the agrarian South is being industrialized, the social condition of the Negro race in America is changing. The Negro question in the United States must be treated with relation to the general international Negro problem; for a strong Negro movement in America will influence and direct the Negro movement in all parts of the world where Negroes are oppressed by various imperialistic powers. Mr. Pepper says that the American working class cannot free itself from capitalistic exploitation without freeing Negroes from white oppression; therefore, the Negro problem emerges as an economic, rather than a racial problem.

Charles W. Hackett offers "A Review of Our Policy in Nicaragua" in *Current History* for November. Mr. Hackett says that a survey of the relations between the United States and Nicaragua during the last twenty years is a story of inconsistencies and blunders. The sending of the Stimson Commission to Nicaragua in 1927 was an effort to extricate the United States government from the embarrassments resulting from its past relations with Nicaragua.

Astute students of the election claimed that the Negro was the biggest thorn in the sides of the G. O. P. and the Donkey. Frank R. Kent in *Collier's* for October 20th asserted that both the Republicans and Democrats were "Afraid of the Dark" brothers. They were, he says, worried, and not a small part of the worry was caused by the uncertainty regarding the Negro vote. Both parties consciously disregarded the Negro in presenting their respective platforms, and scoffed at the idea that there was any real trouble among the dark brethren; but, as Mr. Kent says, it is the undercurrents in politics that really count!

And in the *Nation* for October 17th, W. E. Burghardt Du Bois asked "Is Al Smith Afraid of the South?" and then proceeded to answer his question in the affirmative. Dr. Du Bois painted a picture of "Al" posing as a liberal, but, at the same time, assuring American capital that he was not its enemy. His program on liquor and religion stirred up so much trouble in the Smith camp that it was wise for the Democratic candidate to be orthodox on the Negro according to Southern traditions. Dr. Du Bois said that a vote for Smith was a vote for the reactionary South which would not allow Smith, even if he were so inclined, to take any liberal steps.

The author of "Why We Behave Like Human Beings" has contributed a paper on "Race and Civilization Specialists" to *Plain Talk* for November. Mr. Dorsey ridicules the use of intelligence tests and deals hard blows to advocates of race superiority. In part he says: "Such racial mixtures as we have in America today are in no essential different from race mixtures which have been going on for thousands of years in Europe and Asia and which, we have no reason to believe, ever resulted in inferior races or in breaking up civilization." He adds that America does not take into account the question as to how far undesirable traits in the Negro population are innate and how far they are the result of the social surroundings for which America alone is responsible.

The *World Today* for September offers "The Africa Nobody Knows" by Mary L. J. Akeley, who tells how her husband has preserved in the Lukenia Hills in Nairobi an "African Hall," untouched by the hands of civilization. Mrs. Akeley writes of rose-hued African sunrises and sunsets, of green and leafy acacia trees fringing dusty river banks, of vast game herds roaming the hills and of a moon hung low in deep violet clouds—a glorious, virgin country, Africa!

James Weldon Johnson, in discussing "Race Prejudice and the Negro Artist" in *Harper's* for November, says that the significance of the artistic activity of the Negro in America is two-fold: *first,* the Negro's cultural contributions are bringing something fresh and vital to American art—an indigenous something which is warm and colorful and real; and *second,* and of deeper meaning, by his artistic efforts, the Negro is establishing himself as an intelligent human being capable of citizenship.

Without apology and without making special allowances for the Negro writer, Mr. Johnson, in the December *American Mercury,* tells of the "Dilemma of the Negro Author". Besides facing every one of the difficulties common to all authors, the Aframerican faces the problem of a double and divided audience—an audience with opposite and often antagonistic points of view. Mr. Johnson says that he has thought that the Negro author "would be on surer ground and truer to himself, if he could say to white America 'What I have written, I have written. I hope you'll be interested and like it. If not, I can't help it.' But it is impossible for a sane American Negro to write with total disregard for nine-tenths of the people of the United States."

Two post election comments in *The*

(*Will you please turn to page* 34)

BEST SELLERS IN THE CRISIS BOOK SHOP

September to December, 1928

1. Du Bois: "Dark Princess"
2. Cullen: "Copper Sun"
3. A. Fauset: "For Freedom"
4. Toomer: "Cane"
5. Woodson: "Negro in Our History"
6. J. Fauset: "There is Confusion"

Postscript

by W. E. B. DuBois

CREDIT AND DEBIT

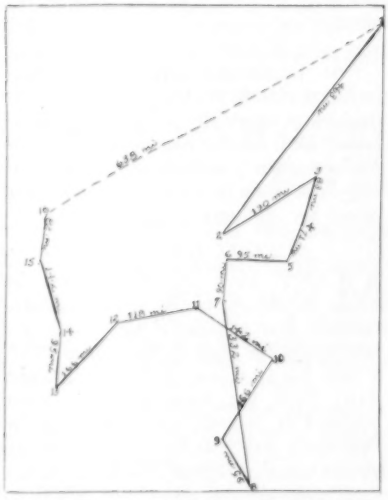
LOOKING over the files of THE CRISIS according to our annual custom, we seem to see the occurrences of the world in relation to American citizens of Negro descent in something like the following Balance Sheet. If you are not sure of any of the items, or if serious omissions occur to you, we would be glad to know.

Credit

The Jerusalem Conference.
Fourteen thousand Negroes in college and Fifteen hundred Bachelors of Arts.
A Negro Congressman.
10 Negro members of State Legislatures.
The defeat of Alfred Smith.
The "Appeal to America".
Mrs. Harper, Member of the West Virginia Legislature.
The renewed attack on segregation.
The Dunbar Apartments and Bank.
Two millions from the General Education Board.
Three Milholland busts.
19th N. A. A. C. P. Conference in Los Angeles.
Chesnutt, 14th Spingarn Medalist.
The first colored Principal in Chicago.
The Walker building in Indianapolis.
The Somerville Hotel.
Hayes in Russia.
Paul Robeson in London.
Josephine Baker all over Europe.
The Fact-Finding Conference.
Colored speakers at the University of North Carolina.
The Dixwell Players.
Harmon Awards to Parsons, Wheeler-Waring, Scott, Dett, White, De Berry, Davis, Overton, Weldon Johnson.
Guggenheim Fellowships to Cullen, Walrond and Ballanta.
The Pynchon Medal to De Berry.
Three Carnegie medals.
Decoration of Captain Floyd.
The gasping Pullman Porters.
Darby Prince and Lionel Licorish.
Mercy Hospital.
Books: "African Saga", Braithwaite's 15th "Anthology", "The Black and White Anthology", "Dark Princess", "The Walls of Jericho", "Quicksand", Herskovits' "The American Negro", Hill's "Toussaint", "Black Majesty", Work's "Bibliography".

Debit

Haiti barred at Cuba.
The "Forty and Eight" bars Negroes.
The failure of two banks.
Indictment of Chicago Negro politicians.
Election of Herbert Hoover and recognition of "Lily Whites".
The Florida hurricane.
Sloane Hospital bars Miss Catchings.
Ben Bess.
Mrs. Booze.
The death of W. C. Harmon, W. S. Montgomery, Matthew Anderson, Joseph Cuney, Bishop Delaney.
Nine lynchings.



1. *New York, N. Y*
2. *Sedalia, N. C.*
3. *Petersburg, Va.*
4. *Raleigh, N. C.*
5. *Fayetteville, N. C*
6. *Charlotte, N. C.*
7. *Columbia, N. C.*
8. *Daytona, Fla.*
9. *Jacksonville, Fla.*
10. *Charleston, S. C.*
11. *Augusta, Ga.*
12. *Atlanta, Ga.*
13. *Tuskegee, Ala.*
14. *Talladega, Ala.*
15. *Nashville, Tenn.*
16. *Bowling Green*

A PILGRIMAGE TO 8,000 BLACK STUDENTS

ANYONE who sits in his chair and evolves the Negro problem from that which he has always known, is wrong from the start, easily led astray, and sure to give false information. I know Negro schools, for I have taught in them for some fifteen years in all, and I have visited them from the District of Columbia to Texas, and from Oklahoma to Florida. But one or two recent mistakes: a forgetting that this school no longer exists, and that name stands for a new thing which I did not know gave me warning. So I started on a pilgrimage to the schools before my fall work was well arranged. I traveled three thousand miles and talked and listened in ten states, states where four or five million Negroes live. I feel now that I am prepared to talk with reasonable intelligence about Negro education for the next twelve months.

CORBIE

THE death of Eugene Corbie is a sad loss to the Negro race. He was a young black man from Trinidad who made a brilliant record in American universities. He had a keen mind and was full of a youthful ardor for argument and investigation which made some older people impatient. They cannot understand why Youth must see the thing through and know it and deems counterfeit all experience which is not its own. But Corbie had more than mere argument. He had faith and fearlessness, and if he had lived, he would have made his mark in this world. He is dead in his young manhood and all the world is poorer for his going.

CHARLOTTE MANYE

I REMEMBER Charlotte as a school girl when I was teaching at Wilberforce. She was a shy black girl, with a lovely voice, a fund of quiet humor, and a poise and manner that bespoke generations of breeding. She was a Basuto from South Africa and had come to Europe and the United States with a troop singing. Bishop Ransom moved to give her an education at Wilberforce, and the A. M. E. Church educated this girl and sent her as a missionary to the Transvaal. There, in Johannesburg, she has worked for twenty-seven years and done the finest piece of missionary work accomplished by the A. M. E. Church anywhere.

But with all the credit that the Church richly deserves for training this woman, it is cruelly to blame. In a generation, she has not received a single leave of absence until this year. She came to General Conference this year, leaving a sick husband, who died in her absence, and a son. She has re-

ceived but little attention in the United States, and yet, she is perhaps the foremost native woman in South Africa. She has stood before two South African Premiers, Botha and Hertzog to plead for native women. She is at the head of a league of two thousand black women. She is Probationary Officer in the Juvenile Court. She speaks English, Dutch and Basuto, and is trying to erect a refuge and rest room for girls and children. Quiet, refined, upright, and absolutely unselfish, she has received in the last few years practically nothing from the Church Missionary funds. She goes back with nearly empty hands, save for gifts of goods and supplies furnished by friends; and to cap the climax, *the Missionary Department of the A. M. E. Church is sending her back in the steerage all the way to Africa!* Twenty-two days of travel,—nearly as many days as the years which she has given to the Church and its cause! She goes back grey-haired, stricken, poor but serene.

Nor is this the fault of the Church, if we envisage the Church as thousands of poor earnest members, represented in hundreds of hardworking women's groups raising money for mission work. But *Somebody* standing between the members and the missionaries has kept back or stolen the money which should go to support Charlotte Manye.

SOCIAL REFORM

I AM coming to suspect that the first steps toward real and fundamental social reform in the United States and in European civilization, will begin with a few simple steps: some countries and then all civilized countries, will begin to insist on complete and absolute publicity as to (a) the individual ownership of property; (b) individual income; (c) individual payment of taxes; (d) the cost and kind of goods raised and manufactured and their sales and selling price; (e) the kind and amount of work which each individual performs.

It has become increasingly clear in discussions of social reform that on all these fundamental matters we have to depend on guess work. And yet, it is certain that without a large measure of accurate information with regard to income, expenditure, manufacture and sales, we cannot proceed to real reform. We may guess, and guess rather accurately what the facts are. But we cannot really know. And we shall never know until public opinion comes to realize that private income and ownership is a fundamental and primary matter on which there should be accurate public knowledge.

PRINCETON

FROM year to year we have announced that no Negro has ever received a degree from Princeton University, except in the case of the Seminary, which is a distinct corporation. Recently it has been brought to our attention that in 1904 and 1906 two colored men, Dr. Leonard Z. Johnson, and the Reverend George S. Starks, received the degree of Master of Arts from Princeton University.

Mr. Johnson writes us:

"The degree of Master of Arts was not conferred 'for resident work in the Seminary'. There was not then—nor is now—any organic relation between the Seminary and the University. Though at the time I was a candidate in the graduate department of the Seminary for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, I registered separately in the Graduate School of the University for the Master's degree, took all my courses, tests, and examinations in the halls and classes of the University, was listed in the University catalogue as a graduate student, and am listed in the general catalogue of Princeton graduates as a Master of Arts.

"At Commencement, 1904, I was in the academic procession and received my degree upon the platform of Alexander Hall at the hands of Woodrow Wilson, then president of the University—his name in his own handwriting is on my diploma."

LEGAL DEFENSE

MANY have doubtless read the N. A. A. C. P. release of September 21st which itemized our expenditures for legal defense since 1912. From January 1st, 1912, to August 31st, 1928, the Association has spent $73,814.97 in cash, not computing the attorney's fees that have been donated to the cause by great lawyers. Cases have cost all the way from $9.00 to $14,942 in the Arkansas Peonage Case, and $37,849 in the Sweet Case. In addition to this, branches of the N. A. A. C. P. have raised and expended large additional funds in co-operation with the National Office. At least $100,000 and possibly $125,000 has thus been spent to defend the Negro in the courts during the last sixteen years. And this all is but a drop in the bucket. We could easily have expended a million dollars in these years, and still have been unable to take up just cases and defend unfortunate people.

As it is, our usual answer to appeals for aid must be: What have you done to defend yourself? What can your friends do? Cannot the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. take up the matter?

This move is absolutely necessary to test the sincerity and importance of the case and the willingness of those interested to work hard and make sacrifice.

Secondly, we investigate the case and look into the circumstances to see what kind of a difficulty is laid before us. If it is simply a matter of human misfortune or wrong, where the color and race of the individual who has suffered has little to do with the matter, we must in most cases pass it by. It would be a splendid thing if we did have funds to help redress wrongs in thousands of such cases that come to our notice, but we have not and moreover, that sort of thing is not our primary duty.

If the difficulty lies mainly because of racial prejudices, then the question is: Can a proper case be made out from the known facts?

WANTED—A HUSBAND

CONTRARY to the belief of most of our Southern white friends, we are not at all anxious for the intermarriage of the races. We have no valid reasons, either biological or esthetic, to offer in support of this unfortunate prejudice on our part. Nevertheless, other things being equal, (and we admit they seldom are equal) we prefer to have most of our colored friends marry colored people. But, being broad-minded, we feel duty-bound to inform our readers that we have a letter from "a charming white lady" who lives in Yugo-Slavia. She states that she wishes "to marry a coloured man; he must be intelligent, distinguished, handsome and good situated, who are able to offer a hearty and careless life to her. Only the serious letter will be answered".

The name and the address of this lonesome white damsel we are keeping on file and we shall be glad to furnish an extra force of clerks if necessary to handle the resultant correspondence. Frankly our object is partially selfish, for we expect in this way to prove or disprove the overwhelming desire of American colored men to obtain white wives—especially of those black gentlemen who are "able to offer a hearty and careless life" to a love-lorn blonde. Let the band play and let the offers pour in.

KRIGWA, 1928

Krigwa prizes for November and December, 1928, are announced as follows:

First Prize, $25. To Laura Wheeler-Waring, for Cover, "Berceuse".

Second Prize, $15. To James Lesesne Wells, for frontispiece, "Ethiopia at the Bar of Justice".

Third Prize, $10. To Dorothy Kruger, for poem, "Heritage".

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WINTER QUARTER - - - - JANUARY 2, 1929
SPRING QUARTER - - - - MARCH 20, 1929

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R. S. WILKINSON, President.

Miracle of Kings

(*Continued from page* 8)

Negro, king were sweet and kind above all things.

"If you wish, dear sirs, I will show you the road to the village, for my home is right on the outskirts."

The black king asked her, with his very sweet voice, "And you, little one, what are you doing here?"

"Well, I," said the little girl, all disturbed, "I had to come for water to the fountain in the woods. My step-mother sent me; but the fountain in the woods was frozen and I could not fill my pitcher."

"What! your step-mother sends you for water in these unearthly hours?"

"Yes, dear sirs. She is a bad step-mother who loves me not at all and beats me."

The three kings felt pity quickly welling up in their hearts, especially the Negro king.

"All right, little girl, come up with us." And the Negro king, sweetest Melchior, helped her mount on his camel. The little girl was enchanted with joy, but her eyes drifted in the direction of the toys.

SIGHING, she thought, "My step-mother has surely not placed my little shoes on the window."

But soon, when the lighted windows of the houses came into sight, the dazzling cortege vanished in the azure air, and the little girl felt like those who awake from a dream, with an ineffably sweet freshness on her eyelids, and she said, "It was all a dream," and without much ado, she went to lift the jug. But looking down at her hands, she found them all covered with roses, and she saw at her side the pitcher filled with sweet and soft water like that which gushes in the springs of the South that never freeze and are always gurgling. And, astounded and filled with happiness, she saw in the distance the land all dry and in bloom, just as if the sweetness of the eyes of the Negro king, who saw her in her dreams, had put into bloom her life amidst a Southern spring: and the majesty of her splendid dream should still persist in her wonderful awakening.

The Hurricane

(*Continued from page* 9)

away. We were fortunate enough to get a boat quickly and then an automobile on the other side.

In five or six minutes we were in Pointe-á-Pitre and what scenes of devastation met our eyes! My pen is powerless to describe them. The su-

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But what of the day (may it be far off) when you are not with them, the day when the hazard of illness or accident takes you away for good and all?

If on that day, there is an insurance policy in the National Benefit for them to fall back upon, to take up the burden where you were forced to lay it down, the whole course of the lives left behind will be benefited.

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gar mill on the point had been laid low and all of the workmen's little houses on the street and near it were in ruins, clothes and bedding were spread out everywhere to dry under a sky still lowering, and the poor people looked miserable and forlorn. At the consulate I found Mr. Hunt standing at his post doing his duty and helping others, though he was drawn and pale. He said he'd never forget the day and night of terror he'd passed through. Nearly all of our furniture was ruined, water stood all over in the house, clothing and bedding were out drying and there was more rain every day. But we could only be too thankful that our lives were spared and feel that more than many others we have been blessed in every way.

AS the roof was still off and rain threatening, etc., it was finally decided that I'd better return to our country house for a few days, and that decision nearly cost me my life, for, on crossing the Riviére Salée with my friends we came near being drowned. After making way for other boats we were borne by the current too near a rope which had been placed across the channel, and our not too skillful oarsmen could not avoid it so it caught us and nearly overturned the boat, knocking a boatman and our chauffeur into the water. They caught on to the side of the boat but did not overturn it fortunately. By ducking our heads we avoided the cable, though it touched my friend and almost knocked her overboard. We were now nearing a foundation of masonry supporting a huge water conduit which crosses the channel. We were obliged to leave the boat and, thanks to the presence of mind and aid of my friend's husband and the chauffeur, we were soon hoisted up onto the masonry and walking for the other side of the river in a heavy shower which drenched us to the bone. After finding our auto among the numerous others, we were soon en route for Trois Riviéres and Basse Terre and the sun soon came out to warm and dry us somewhat. Though fearful of grippe or pneumonia to follow, I escaped with a slight cold and nervous reaction, as I took something hot and went at once to bed. In a week's time, I was again at the Pointe trying to gather up the scattered ends and nurse my husband who was ill with grippe and fever. There two other frights awaited me, a terrible electrical storm with the loudest peals of thunder I've ever heard, and a cry of fire in the night with the tocsin sounding the alarm, and one or two slight earthquake shocks were added for good measure.

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AT first the people seemed struck dumb and then they took things philosophically, or perhaps, I'd better say stoically, and went about their business gathering up slowly the scattered fragments. And the sad part about it all was that, isolated as we are and with all means of communication cut off, the outside world was ignorant of our fate for days and days. After six days the American consul could send out an S. O. S. call to the government for aid and comfort, just after Paris had been reached. The first boat to arrive left France September 23rd and landed here October 7th with food and hospital supplies at the same time that a war vessel came in having on board Ambassador Claudel as special commissioner of the French government.

Meanwhile the Governor and Mayors had been doing what they could. At Pointe-á-Pitre, the Mayor and assistants acted with considerable dispatch in clearing the streets, caring for the sick and wounded, distributing food tickets, etc. Shelter was a more difficult matter, though one doesn't need much in this climate during good weather—and frequent rains drenched all of the homeless and roofless until colds and grippe and pneumonia were prevalent. Corrugated iron is lacking and one can only wait. More material and some expert road builders are en route from France, it is said.

It will be years before the colony will assume a modern aspect or even its former aspect, and it was already fifty years behind modern progress. The roads need widening and shortening, in order to avoid many dangerous and unnecessary curves and windings. General and industrial training lag sixty years behind the times. Even the pictures in the primers portray costumes of forty years ago. Politics, too, and petty racial prejudices keep the people divided.

Vegetation pushes so rapidly here that Nature is already repairing some of her past ravage and the landscape looks less desolate and forlorn. The mountain heights still show parched and yellow, but banana trees are lifting their heads, the sugar cane righting itself, and the other trees left standing are sprouting out their myriad shades of green from maimed and broken branches, and here and there a flower blooms again. To look at the blue sea and spotless sky today and feel the warm caress of the wind, one would almost be inclined to say this is, in truth, a "paradise terreste", an "emerald isle", but when the wind rises and the earth trembles one longs for the "wings of a dove to fly far far away" from this *pays d'epouvante*.

Sunshine Sammy

(*Continued from page* 10)

in one of the smaller theaters to an audience more or less critical, his party journeyed to the Texas city. Imagine their surprise when they received a rousing greeting at the station and all along the route of the gala parade including fourteen automobiles crowded with enthusiastic admirers. The original engagement, which was for three days, netted the team $450. The act went over in such fine style that the engagement was extended to cover a period of twelve days at an advanced figure.

This excellent beginning was followed by engagements in New Orleans, Birmingham and Atlanta. In the Georgia capitol Sunshine Sammy was a guest of the Chamber of Commerce and appeared in a Loew's theater, the first Negro act in thirty-five years. The *Atlanta Constitution*, an outstanding southern daily, was most generous in praise of the star. The act at this time was bringing seven hundred and fifty dollars a week. The publicity given by the *Constitution* helped to make easy lucrative engagements in Nashville, Louisville, Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland. The *Billboard* joined the chorus in singing the praises of the now famous vaudeville star and the theatrical world was alert enough to get on the band wagon.

MR. A. FEINBERG, well known booking agent in New York City, was attracted by this extraordinary publicity and made special efforts to secure the booking rights of the new star. Consequently after a series of telegrams, long distance telephone calls and letters, a contract was secured with Fay's Circuit handled through Keith's Agency and the act opened at Fay's Rochester Theater in May, 1925, at a salary of $1250 a week. Then followed successful engagements throughout the East and Middle West. In the fall of 1925 the act was booked by the Keith-Albee Orpheum Circuit. For the three years ending May, 1928, these contracts were in force. In May of this year a contract was signed with Loew's Circuit which will include the season of 1928-9. On the Orpheum and on the Loew's Circuit despite the other nationally known acts carried, Sunshine Sammy's act has always been featured as the head-liner on the bill. Contracts for this year include engagements for the Vitaphone talking pictures.

Thus we follow an interesting ascent from a dollar and a half a week to twelve hundred and fifty a week and more. Obviously this modest, capable

and industrious young star will reach even greater magnitudes. The wide awake father is giving his famous son instructions in the business end of his career as well as in the entertainment features. Father and son make a fine team off as well as on the boards and fortunately both realize that there are still heights to be reached.

The Little Page

(*Continued from page* 11)

I'd serve some princess or a prince
On marmalade and ting mints.
Yet guests should say,
"It's not the palace
But your sweet heart
That charms us, Alice."

N.A.A.C.P. Battle Front

(*Continued from page* 12)

sponse from everyone present, he said: "The Americans treat me so nice that I hope I never get out of sight of them."

At present writing quartermaster Licorish is to receive a fund of $714, raised by Mr. Straus and through the New York *Times*. Besides that, he is appearing before crowded audiences in a number of the largest vaudeville houses of New York. So that in most gratifying fashion, the bravery and intelligence of this modest man of the sea, hailing from Barbadoes is redounding not alone to his own advantage but to that of his race.

A PROTEST AT SEGREGATION

ON October 23, the following letter was sent to the United States Secretary of the Interior:

"My dear Mr. Secretary: I hereby tender my resignation as senior stenographer in the General Land Office, to take effect at the close of service October 24, 1928, as a protest against the crushing conditions to which the colored employees are subjected in this department and in the Government, and in order that I may enter upon higher and fuller service to my country and to my race."

The letter was sent by Miss Gretchen McRae, one of the leaders in the fight against discrimination practiced on colored clerks of the Washington government bureaus in offices and cafeterias, as well as in employment and promotion. Miss McRae was outspoken in her criticism of the Jim-Crow policy in government departments, during her employment there. She not only voiced her own criticism, but encouraged other clerks to do likewise and to sign petitions denouncing the practice. The change in attitude which must precede decent fairness to all government employees irrespective of race or color is slow in coming. But Miss McRae's work surely has helped to focus public opinion on the vicious segregation practices; and by that token we must hope she has helped to hasten the day when these practices will be ended.

H. J. S.

The Poet's Corner

(*Continued from page* 13)

An' let his prayer be turned into sin.
Let his childern be faatherless,
An' his wife a widow.
Let his childern be vagabons' an' beg.

"Let de extortioner caatch all dat he is got.
Let dere be none to exten' him mercy;
Neither let dere be any to have pity on his Faatherless childern.
Let his posterity be cut off;
In de nex' generation followin' let dere name be blotted out.
Let him be before de Lord continually,
Dat He cut off de mem'ry of him from de earth.

" 'Cause dat he remembered not to show mercy,
But clothed himself with cursin' as with a gaarment;
An' it came into his inwaards paarts lak waater,
An' lak oil into his bones.

"Dis is de rewaard of our adversary from de Lord,
Of him dat speak evil agains' our souls.
Save us from him dat judge our souls.
Save us Lord from him.

"O God of our praise, Amen!
Amen!"

THE cursers paused for a moment in silence,
Then howled their curse again
In dreadful repetition through the night,
True black Obeah-taught men.

Until the end came with the morning,
When some fell on the ground;
Their voices rolling up, up, up
Into a breaking sound.

Black eyes were twitching horribly;
Black mouths were slavering froth
Like mad dogs snarling among themselves,
Each with the other wroth.

Growing ever weaker Lance prayed and struggled
With the ghostly hands of death,
When sharp through his brain shot an inspiration
So daring he held his breath.

Most surely God had given him a weapon,
It made his slow pulse throb.

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He stretched as he could and raised on his toes
And smiled at the maddened mob.

His hooked eagle-beak stuck out dilated;
His eyes were eyes of fire;
His mouth a line of indomitable strength;
He appeared to tower higher.

A tall, gaunt fisherman's grave look caught
The flame in Lance's eyes;
In the voice of one seeing miracles
He yelped in fear-hoarse cries:

"Christ Jesus Almighty, have mercy on us,
De wraath of God is dere
Staamped full on dat maan, dat Jamaican's face,
All hell is broke loose here."

The mob and its fiendish black leader
Were shivering and unnerved,
Lance was neither crazy nor dead.
Their shaken allegiance swerved.

As Lance drew a deep, long quivering breath,
Heedless of biting ropes,
Heedless of tearing mortal flesh,
His deathless spirit hopes;—

Slowly he uttered in lyrical tones:

"De Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not waant.

"Yea, though I waalk through de valley of de shadow of death.
I will fear no evil;
For Thou is with I;
Thy rod an' Thy staaff dey comforts I.

"Thou prepares' a taable for I
In de presence of mine enemies;
Thou anoints my head with oil:
My cup runneth over

"Surely goodness an' mercy shall follow I
All de days of my life
An' I shall dwell in de house of de Lord forever."

LANCE held the men in awe struck silence
Till their leader screamed his wrath:
"Death an' God's curse to dat Jamaican!"
And sweeping men from his path

He sprang at Lance to slash his throat
When the God-fearing fisherman cried:
"Damn yo', yo' devil, stop it! Stop it!"
And clamped Scraggs' arms to his side.

Lance's golden voice rang out triumphant:
"My Psalm is won! Is won!
Glory! Glory to God in de highes'!
Lord Jesus will is done!"

The Far Horizon

(*Continued from page* 19)

Negro hymns. With his complete mastery of artistic expression unfolded to us such a world of pain united with utter child-like faith in a better future, that through those hymns we were brought to the active co-experience of the tragedy of these people—the tragedy of an exploited race. We greet the famous singer and the great artist of sounds, who brings with him a stream of great art which he has mastered under the condition of hard struggle. For the singer, who knows the languages of Europe, English, Italian, German, and French equally well; who gives remarkably well the musical essence of different national schools of music—has made a tremendous cultural achievement. There is much to learn from him for our Soviet singers. The accompanist of Hayes is a fellow countryman, the author of the collected hymns and the adapter, . . . Richard Parham is a fine and musical accompanist."

Of his singing in Berlin, the *Signale* says:

It is not necessary to appraise Mr. Roland Hayes as the world famous Negro tenor on the program, for undoubtedly he would have made an everlasting impression through the medium of his art upon an understanding public. Only a delicate, sensitive, and a fine singer and a musician of eminence could have lived so deeply in the inner conception of the German songs, a thing which foreign singers seldom do. His smooth, well built tenor is of overwhelming beauty in the pianissimo, although in the fortissimo some difficulties betray themselves through pressure of tones, occasional forcing and the use of the nose resonance. Therefore his field is somewhat limited, but he is a singer of finesse for connoisseurs. Another Negro, Percy Parham, accompanied him intelligently, skillfully".

Turning now from Roland Hayes to Walter White, we note that a Russian translation of "Flight" has been made. It is accompanied by a preface written by Carl Jones. He says:

Many of them who find that their open allegiance with Negroes places the penalty imposed on those born black in America upon them, renounce this adherence when impelled by economic pressure to seek employment and when the labor of the day is completed return at night to the warmer and more enlivening embraces of Negro society. Some marry into white families and are completely submerged. Many who have done this find their dissociation from Negroes to be too great a price and voluntarily return to the dark race. They even speak of this as coming back to their own people.

It is not difficult to understand the discontent of the Negroes who have "passed over" into white society and become successful in business. The warmth and color of Negro life, though clouded by the bar sinister—color—is proverbial. On the other hand the average white worker in America seems to be a captive of the machine. His working hours finds him hopelessly fastened and as he often believes unescapably fastened to

the machine. His leisure hours find him unable to relieve himself from the depression created by the pessimistic attitude he has taken of life. Their faces reflect this pessimism and hopelessness. Their moments of relaxation are spent watching a baseball game or a boxing match. In the South such moments are spent in attendance of some revival meeting or in participation in some such Roman holiday as a lynching bee affords. . . .

The Negro has given America the only folk music of which she can boast. He stands as the undisputed creator of America's now famous dances and dance music. Life he must have, song and laughter he radiates. Herein lies the answer to the question why those among the "near-whites" who can "pass over" prefer to remain at least socially within the "Pale".

All this Mr. White has caught up and woven into a fabric from which he has cut the glamorous, scintillating and extremely colorful "Flight".

HARLEM

A CERTAIN J. W. T. Mason writing in the Sunday *Express* of London, Eng., gives some extraordinary "facts" about Harlem. We quote a few:

The blacks are as isolated in New York as if they dwelt in Africa. Their principal residential district is in Harlem, on Manhattan Island, with 135th-street forming their chief thoroughfare. Nearly two hundred thousand Negroes now live in the Harlem area, which a generation ago was as fashionable a white residential section as South Kensington in London.

There are no whites in this Negro quarter, except curious visitors who go there in numbers to see the sights. Negro policemen patrol the streets, Negro postmen deliver letters, Negro cinemas offer amusement, there are several theatres where the performers are all blacks, Negro restaurants abound, and Negro newspapers print nothing but Negro news.

Hidden in the recesses of the houses are occasional voodoo doctors and Negro witches, who profess to cure illnesses and be able to concoct love charms. The old jungle lure still dwells in many Negro breasts.

Schools offer as complete an education to the New York Negroes as to white children, but the blacks have not an inherited mental capacity giving promise of any large prosperity for them in the near future. The small shops in the Negro sections, bake shops, meat shops, grocery shops, clothing shops and the like, are all operated by whites, because the Negroes are not competent even to engage in the smallest retail trade requiring book-keeping and a moderate capacity to meet the simple problems of small business. Negro purchasers would like to give preference to shopkeepers of their own race, but they cannot do so because there are practically none.

Negro associations for improving their conditions are not lacking, but leadership is woefully inept. The Negroes have a low sense of financial responsibilities, and banks are reluctant to loan them large sums for business development.

Small wonder that Europeans get an extraordinary idea of the American Negro.

BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION

THE Hon. C. C. Adeniyi-Jones, member of the Nigerian Legislative Council has been speaking plainly in *West Africa* concerning political and administrative problems in Nigeria.

There can be no doubt that to Sir Hugh Clifford must be awarded the honor of being the first West African Governor to introduce the principle of the franchise into British Africa, by incorporating the privilege into the Constitution of the Legislative Council of the Colony in 1923.

Though the activities of the National Congress of West Africa had, since 1920, succeeded in creating a favorable atmosphere for the introduction of franchise into British West Africa, and everybody was on the tiptoe of expectation that the Gold Coast Colony would naturally take the lead, it was left to Sir Hugh's initiative as Governor of Nigeria to give concrete expression to that idealism which had tinged the imagination of the Congress leaders.

The Nigerian Constitution, though first in the field, has, I regret to say, proved the least satisfactory, because of its many grave defects when compared with those of the sister Colonies.

In the first place its overwhelming official majority, which, originally nine, has by recent Letters Patent been increased to 12, has not only nullified the principle of the franchise but has practically reduced the unofficial members, especially the elected members, to the role of mere recording instruments of official sweet will.

It will be remembered that the necessity for the control of the Colony's expenditure constituted the "point of attack" of the criticism levelled against the Nigerian Constitution in its incipiency, when the cry for a "Geddes axe" on an "Inchcape Commission" was raised by the elected members. It will also be remembered that that cry was so loud that it made itself heard and brought from Sir Hugh the categorical reply that the control of expenditure would be vested in the hands of his unofficial members. Unfortunately the principle behind that reply seems to have been existing more on paper and in the platitudinous phrases with which the idea was clothed than in the practical working of the scheme; for, *de facto*, in each Finance committee since the present administration, unofficial members, when raising a protest against any particular item listed in the estimates of expenditures, are invariably met with the staid reply either that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has already sanctioned the expenditure, or the experts of the Depart-

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ment that is to incur the expenditure had gone thoroughly into the matter with the head of the Executive before the item was booked. And if by any means any particular item be ruled out by the activities of the unofficial members in the Finance Committee, that item invariably finds it way back into the Estimates, either by an official motion when "Council resumes," or in a subsequent supplementary estimate. And, of course, this latter means that the expenditure has been actually incurred before the item is brought to a subsequent meeting of Council for "discussion."

Indeed, so great has been the despair of unofficial members that they have long ago considered it a sheer waste of their valuable time to be called upon to sit as member of a Finance Committee where everything has been previously cut and dried, the duty expected from them being simply to initial or tick off the items as they are called out. And it was with a view to dispel the dissatisfaction engendered amongst unofficial members, as the result of the suspicion that their opinion and views do not count with the Government, that Sir Graeme Thomson convened a round table conference of unofficial members early last year.

RED CAPS

THE New York *Times* says:

The honesty of the "Red Cap" porters in the metropolitan railroad stations is constantly being tested and seldom found wanting. An hour spent in the Lost Property room of any station will prove this by the large number of varied articles returned. Among the returned goods are wallets loaded with money; canes, umbrellas, spectacle cases, portfolios, handbags, gloves, wraps, golf bags, lunch baskets, books, jewelry and bouquets of flowers.

Scenes of pathos and humor take place in the Lost Property room. A man reports that in rushing across the waiting room floor he lost his wife's picture, and he never traveled without it. "It is my mascot," he explains, "and I am superstitious about it." A drawer in the desk is opened and the fading picture of a woman, taken evidently thirty years ago, is taken out. "A Red Cap found it," is the report.

Sometimes the Red Caps are the losers. One comes into the room loaded down with valises and suitcases. "I've lost my man," he reports. "I was carrying all these for him, stooped to fix the strap on a suitcase and when I looked up he had gone."

MR. GARVEY EXPLAINS

MARCUS GARVEY has been speaking and holding interviews in London, Paris, and Geneva. Reports of some of his speeches have come to us from various sources. The *Gold Coast Independent* of British West Africa reports one speech which we have not seen before, from which we quote without comment.

In addition to the fact that for six years 25 per cent, of our employees were secret service agents of the United States Government, it is peculiar also for you to realize that the Counsel-General to me and to my Organization, on whose advice I acted—I not being an American citizen but a British subject, not knowing the American laws—the Counsel-General of our Organization and to me, paid, like myself, from the common funds of the Organization, an American citizen who was responsible for the legal phase of our business—while he was in our employ he was also in the employ of the Government. When I was indicted by the Government they called him out from serving us as Counsel-General, and, after convicting me, they made him Assistant Attorney-General of the United States. If anybody should have been indicted the Counsel of the Organization who gave the advice to the Organization, should have been indicted. They did not indict him, however; they indicted the President who acted on the Counsel-General's advice; and after the President was convicted they honored the Counsel by making him Assistant Attorney-General of the United States. Those are the morals of politics in America.

And I am surprised that the English Press should influence the English public to condemn me without a hearing, trying to state that I am a criminal and an ex-convict, under those circumstances.

THE NULLIFIED AMENDMENT

WE quote an editorial in the Chicago daily *Tribune* which is of wide significance at this time:

The nullification of the fourteenth amendment in congress has given the United States a form or representative government for which the constitution does not provide. It also gives the nation a manner of electing a President for which the constitution does not provide. It is not a question of whether southern states have found legal ways of keeping Negro citizens from voting and thus preserving the white control of government.

It is recognized that some states may have and will have franchise restrictions. A person may be an American citizen and not a qualified voter in an American state. But if such persons are twenty-one years of age, are citizens and cannot qualify as voters they cannot be counted in the population of the state for purposes of representation either in congress or in the electoral college. If they cannot vote because they are unwilling or unable to pay a poll tax, because they cannot read or write or interpret a part of the constitution the state which requires such qualifications for voting is to have the number of these nonvoting citizens deducted from the total on which its representation is based.

The right to impose a qualifying test is recognized but it carries what may be called a penalty. It is not in reality that. It is an adjustment or compensation. The state which has free and unabridged voting rights available to all citizens of legal age is intended to have

all its population, exclusive of untaxed Indians, counted as the basis of its representation in congress and in the election of President. A state which disqualifies some of its citizens cancels them out, under the constitution.

There is much passion and prejudice in the issue because the amendment was intended primarily to give the Negro freedmen the franchise and because the attempts of the radical Republicans to coerce the south after the civil war promoted as much bitterness as the war itself. The supporters of suffrage restrictions say that all have been made effective legally. If that is to be conceded it remains that the legal adjustment in representation has not been made and it has not been made because the members of congress do not obey the command of the constitution.

The restrictions are not all in southern states, but there are the conspicuous issues. If the southern states have the election laws they want and find necessary the attainment of their object requires them to give up a certain voting strength in the making of federal laws and in the election of a President. Arthur Henning in his articles dealing with this subject points out that Hughes and not Wilson would have been elected if the electoral college had been properly constituted. The person who thinks that this nullification of the constitution is a matter of no importance hasn't much regard for the working of his form of government. If it is of so little consequence there is nothing to prevent other holes being shot in it.

The fourteenth amendment has not been repealed. It does not require machinery of enforcement. A little work by the census bureau would give congress the figures and thereupon the adjustment of representation to suffrage laws becomes automatic. All congress need do, and that it is commanded to do, is to pass an apportionment bill complying with the constitution and recognizing the facts.

This question will not quiet itself. It is presented to congress. Submit that amendment for repeal or obey it. If the people no longer want their government organized in that fashion and their laws passed under such a system of representative government they'll vote it out of the constitution. It is not dead wood in the body of organic law, although congress seems so to regard it. It is a most important part of the American system of representative democracy and of the republican form of government.

OVER-CROWDING

GIRARD writes in his "Talk of the Day" in the *Philadelphia Enquirer:*

Every twelfth person you see in Philadelphia is a Negro.

In the past decade colored population has increased three times as fast as white population.

Another important fact is that four times as many Negroes as white people live upon an acre of ground in this city.

This gross over-crowding of our 170,000 Negro population comes as near a real scandal as anything you can find in this otherwise enlightened town.

Goodness knows how many agencies in the past ten years have wrung your hearts and your pocketbooks in behalf of "Near East sufferers." I do not know what makes the Near East so habitually bleed, but bleed it does.

Millions of money have gone from this State to do one thing or another in the Near East. I learn from one small church in the little town of Emporium that its Near East tax is $100 a year.

So we bleed cash for a cause 5000 miles away, but I know of no big attempt made in Philadelphia to cure this Negro scandal at our own door.

Any populated part of a big city seems croweded aplenty.

But the white folks have more elbow room, more breathing spaces and more square feet per home by great odds than have our 170,000 colored people.

Our white population upon one acre is only twenty-eight. Our Negro population upon one acre is 111—about four times as crowded.

Now if Negro homes were towering apartments, an acre might easily hold 111 comfortably. Negro homes, on the contrary, are nearly all two-story, or at most, small three-story dwellings.

And in that fact it will be found that while Negro inhabitants huddle four times as thickly upon one acre as do white inhabitants, the crowding is really far worse than that.

Thousands of white inhabitants dwell in tall apartments and a tall apartment multiplies populated acreage with every floor.

What can Philadelphia do to remedy this worst of city evils—the overcrowding of Negroes in restricted areas? Well, we can go on investing scores of millions a year of our own cash in foreign industries and neglect, as in the past, to invest even one million for the home betterment of 170,000 of our own industrial population.

Yet one might suppose it would profit us more to help our own toilers than to aid industry in Patagonia.

THE WORKING DAUGHTERS

A FRIEND writes us concerning that well-known passage in the Bible: "I Am Black But Comely, O —Daughters of Jerusalem".

How many times has this famous passage from the *Song of Songs* been quoted by colored folk, and how few have ever looked into its history or its true meaning. Dean Pickens, in one of his speeches, has asserted that the "but" in the sentence has been put there by the race prejudice of the modern Nordic; in the original Hebrew, he says, it is "black *and* comely." This is an amusing quip, but if intended seriously, it has not a leg to stand on. For whatever the original Hebrew may be, the "but" was put there before any of the

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Nordic races could read or write. In the Latin version of the Bible made by St. Jerome at the end of the fourth century A. D., which is known as the Vulgate and has been used by the Catholic Church ever since, the words are given as "nigra sum *sed* formosa"—and all of us know enough Latin to know that "sed" is "but". I do not happen to have the Septuagint Greek version of the Bible at hand, but this translation, which was made by the Hellenized Jews of Egypt nearly three centuries before the birth of Christ, also shows, as I remember, that the phrase was then understood to mean "black (or swarthy) *but* beautiful". Not only that, but several times the fairness of complexion of the person beloved is insisted on, as a distinct virtue, in the *Song of Songs*.

But that is not the only difficulty to be considered. Was the lady black at all, that **is, in the sense of being** a member of a Negro race? I doubt it. Many of the most competent Hebrew scholars translate the word, not "black", but "swarthy". So the late Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., in his book, *The Song of Songs: A New Translation based on a Revised Text* (Philadelphia, 1921), translates: "Swarthy am, but comely, O maidens of Jerusalem, (swarthy) as the tents of Kedar, as Solomonic hangings. Heed not that I am swarthy, that the sun has scorched me; the keeper of the vineyards they made me; but my own vineyard I did not keep." And in a note he explains the word, "the keeper of the vineyards they made me," by saying: "That is the reason why she is sunburnt; the reference is to the guarding of the vineyards during harvest time." In other words, the poor girl of the country, who has to stand in the sun guarding the vineyards, excuses her sunburnt skin to the sheltered "daughters of Jerusalem" who have the paleness of those who guard themselves against the sun. It is another illustration of Veblen's "theory of the leisure class": pale skins were preferred because it showed you did not have to earn a living by working in the sun.

AN OKLAHOMA JUDGE

THE *Black Despatch*, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, says:

With the filing of impreachment charges against Judge Franklin E. Kennamer in the Congress of the United States, the rotten American political system obtrudes its ugly head. Not satisfied with the recent attempt to slice the Northern District with the federal scissors and thereby cutting off Okfuskee county, where Judge Kennamer has given black folk their freedom for the first time since statehood, the denizens of hate and prejudice are now executing another flank movement, in the charges filed Wednesday.

Judge Kennamer has been the unrelenting, implacable foe of bootlegger in his district. He has taken a firm and courageous stand on the question of the

Negro's right to vote in Oklahoma. Although an Alabamian, Judge Kennamer has shown that which it is possible to do in the realm of justice and fairness when you place a man from the South beyond the range of local sentiment and mob passions. In fact, in the Supreme Court of the United States, the Negro discovers that it is the white Southerner, when once cloistered beyond petty recalls and the yank of the demagogue, who has rendered the fairest decisions relating to the black man's rights.

But the mob spirit is after Kennamer. Oklahoma does not like this man because he had the guts to aver, since his elevation to the federal bench, that a Negro could not get justice in state courts. More than 500 Negroes in Okfuskee county now vote for the first time since statehood, because of his order. Oklahoma spent several thousand dollars of the taxpayers' money to have this decision reversed, with no avail.

No wonder it is difficult for a white man with a big heart, and a desire to administer equity and justice in his labors with his constituency, for the mob, the denizens of hate, will not wait to meet him out on the thoroughfares of life, they will go into his castle, into his home, to destroy his character and good name, if they think for one moment that he seeks to do the things that are right.

Every citizen in the Northern federal district should write to the Oklahoma delegation in Congress; they should write to other fair-minded members of the national legislature and tell the truth about Judge Kennamer, for he is today in the hands of Pontius Pilate and the gang who would crucify him for righteousness.

A correspondent adds:

Since statehood the Negroes of Okfuskee County, in and near Boley, had never voted. Upon the elevation of Judge Kennamer to the bench, he immediately began to slam state officials in jail who refused to allow Negroes their suffrage privileges. I personally raised last year a fund to assist in the appeal of the state of Oklahoma against a decision of Kennamer's, (which we won) and a case wherein we had to spend more than $3,000.

Because of this decision, more than 700 blacks vote in and around Boley. The whites in the county have countered with a petition to Congress to take them out of Kennamer's district and place them in the Eastern district, where they will be under Judge Robert L. Williams, former governor, and the man who called the special session of the legislature, while he was governor, when the vicious registration law of Oklahoma was passed. This bill, which would slice Okfuskee County out of Kennamer's district, is now before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Every court town in Judge Kennamer's district has passed resolutions of confidence, and there is not a litigant who has appeared before his court whose name is signed to any of the affidavits before Congress."

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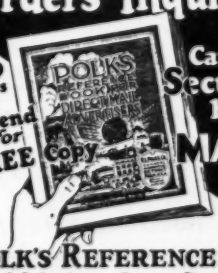

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A TITLE page and index to volume 35 of THE CRISIS will be furnished persons who send us a stamped envelope.

The Browsing Reader

(*Continued from page* 20)

Nation are of interest to Negroes. "Notes From Washington" by Duff Gilfond in the November 14th issue, relates how Mr. Hoover, after refusing to see a Negro delegation for two weeks, at length agreed to discontinue Negro segregation in the Department of Commerce; and how Dr. Work, after seven conferences with the colored leaders, agreed to wipe out segregation in the Pension Office of the Department of the Interior, where, by the way, he had instituted it, but when asked to be equally fair about the General Land Office, replied that *he* hadn't put it there!

An editorial in the November 21st issue says that Governor Smith's breaking of the South is an extraordinary political event—that Governor Smith brought about this historical happening, not Herbert Hoover. The South voted *against* the Governor of New York, not *for* Mr. Hoover.

James M. Reinhardt writes on "Students and Race Feeling" in the *Survey* for November 15th and arrives at some interesting conclusions. He tabulates the racial attitudes of students in the University of North Dakota and at Morris Harvey College in West Virginia and finds that the prejudices against Negroes are stronger among the rising generation in North Dakota than in West Virginia. Mr. Reinhardt says in conclusion that the feeling against Negroes in both groups is not so strong as it is against some other races and nationalities, except where recognition of social equality is inevitable.

Africa for July carries an article on "Native Poetry in East Africa" by A. Werner. Swahili poetry and folk songs have a distinct metrical form, probably borrowed from the Arabic, but most of the poetry, however, is difficult, as if the poet considered obscurity necessary to his art.

The *Atlantic Monthly* for December carries the first half of "Conjur" by Pernet Patterson. It is a story of the conflict and jealousy between black Runa, who for years had ruled her master's house with uncanny quietude born of the power to cast "spells" on folks, and yellow Charlie, the new butler, smirking and bumptious in manner and gloating in his northern "eddication".

MARVEL JACKSON.

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Please think over the suggestions that we have made and see that if in this Christmas season you cannot only give joy to your friends, but do a good and effective stroke for THE CRISIS and for the uplift of all men.

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